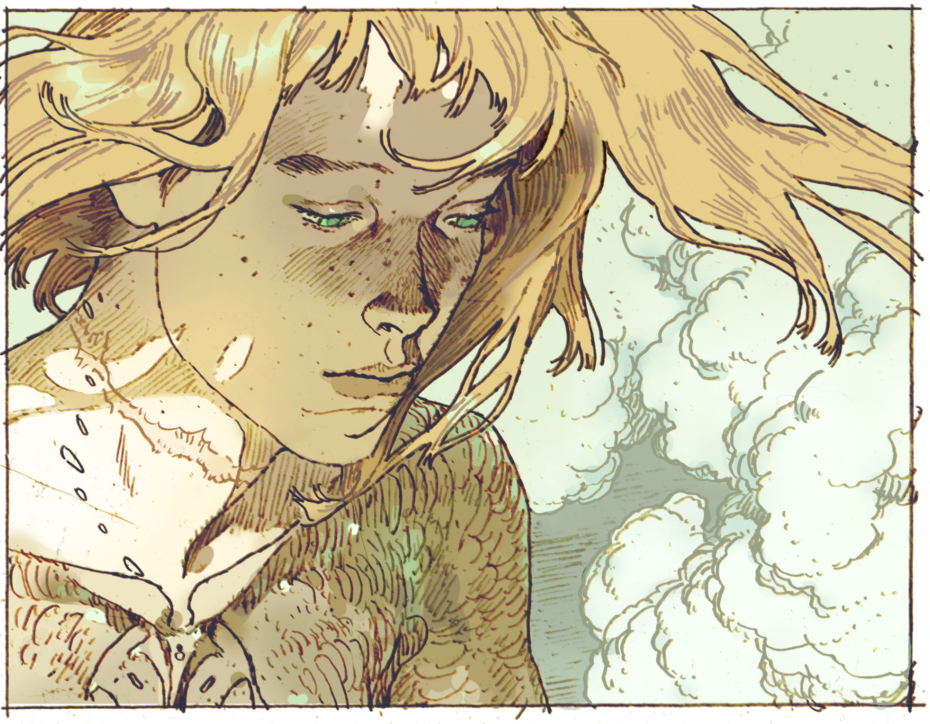
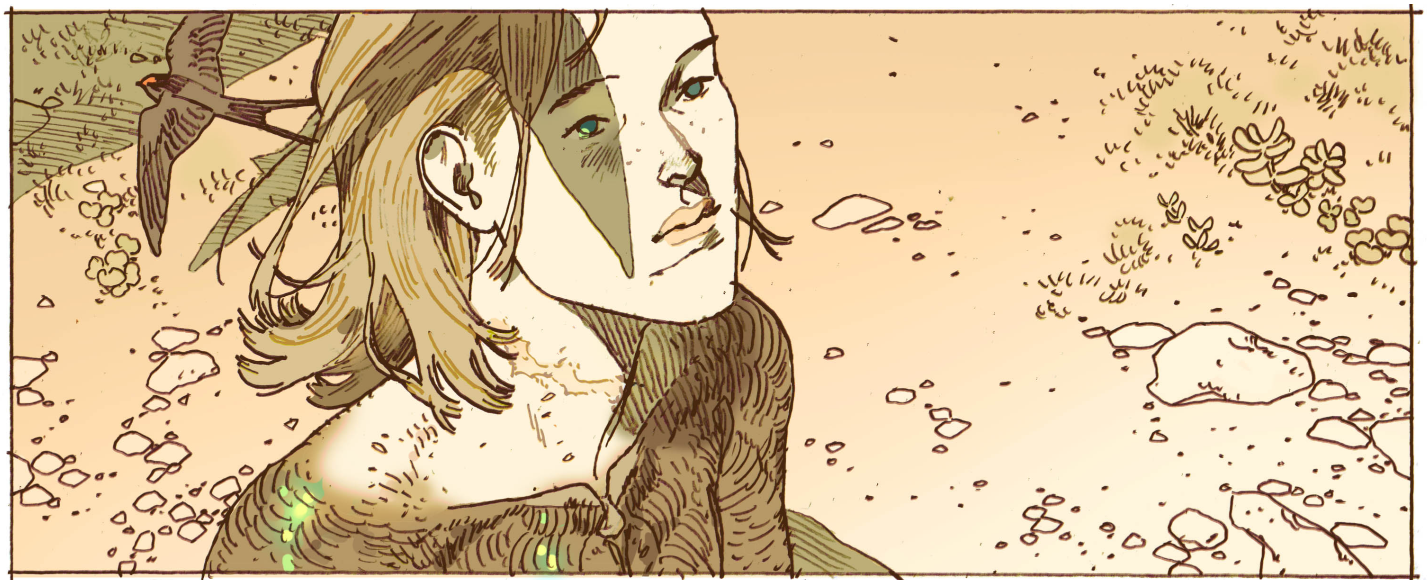
'A GARDEN OF SPHERES'

CH. 01 - 02
'INTRODUCING THE WANDERER OR, THE UN-MAKER'

+ DEATH SCENE 01
+(DRAGON HUNT 01)



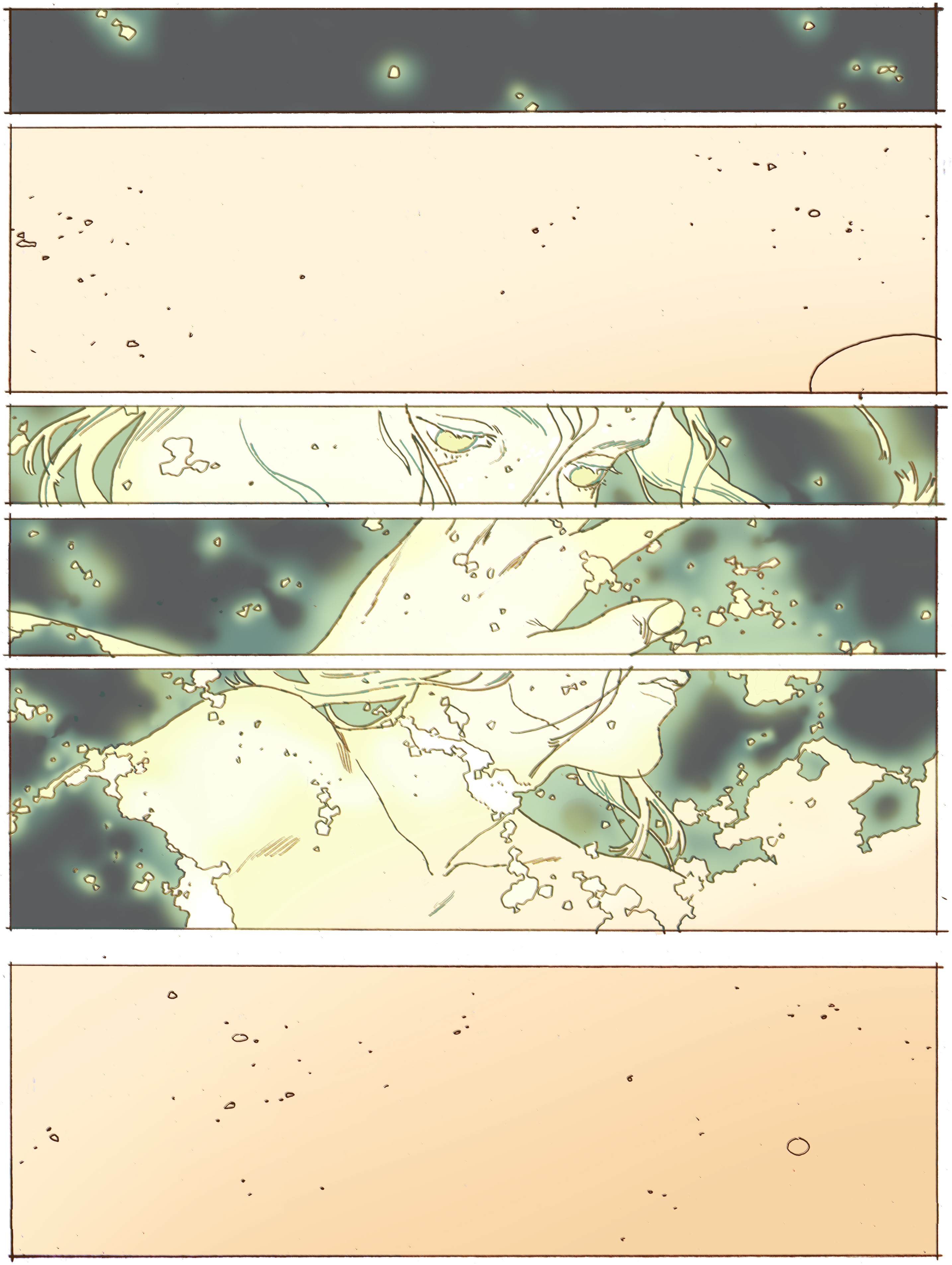
//LINNEA STERTE

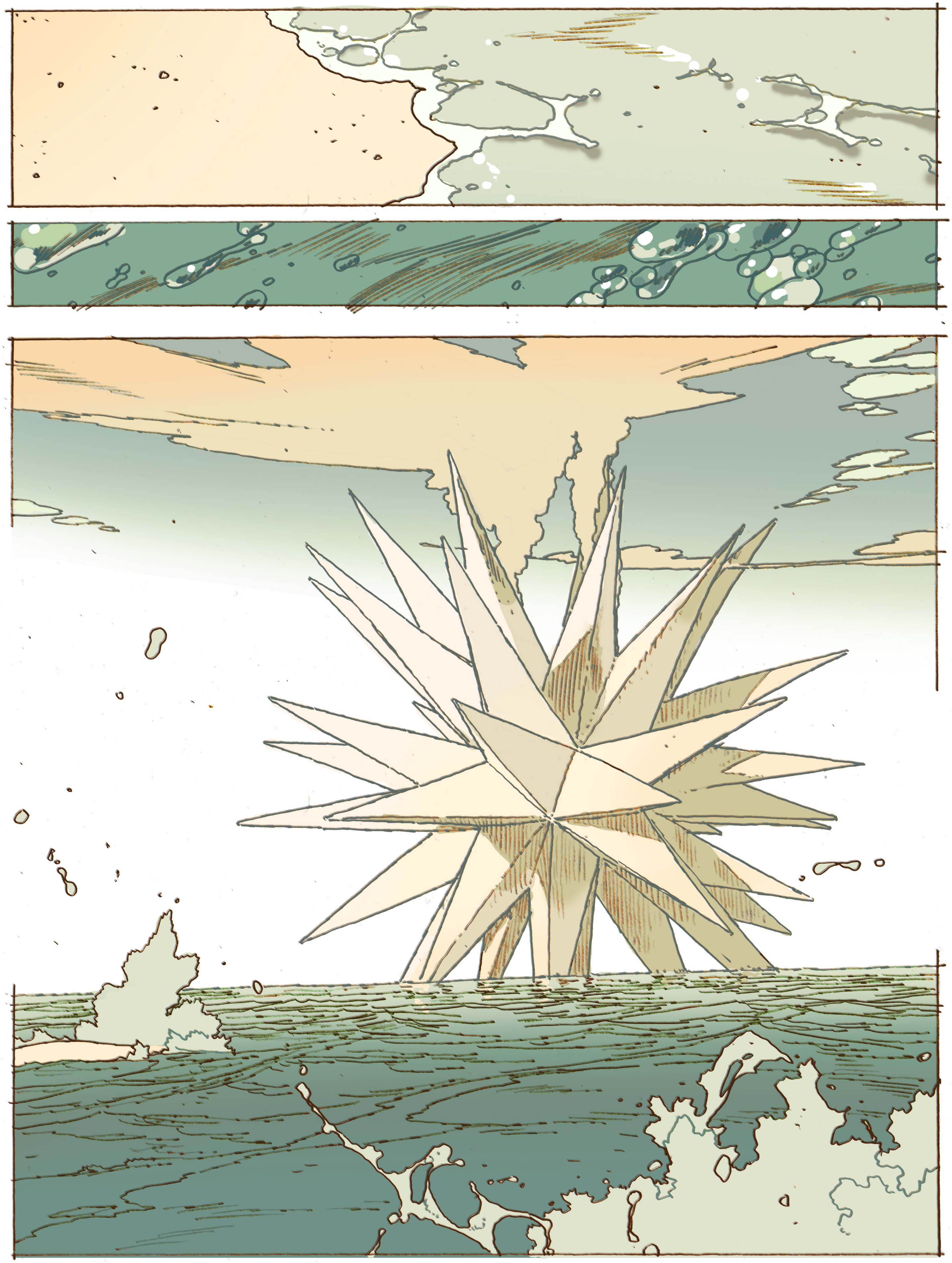


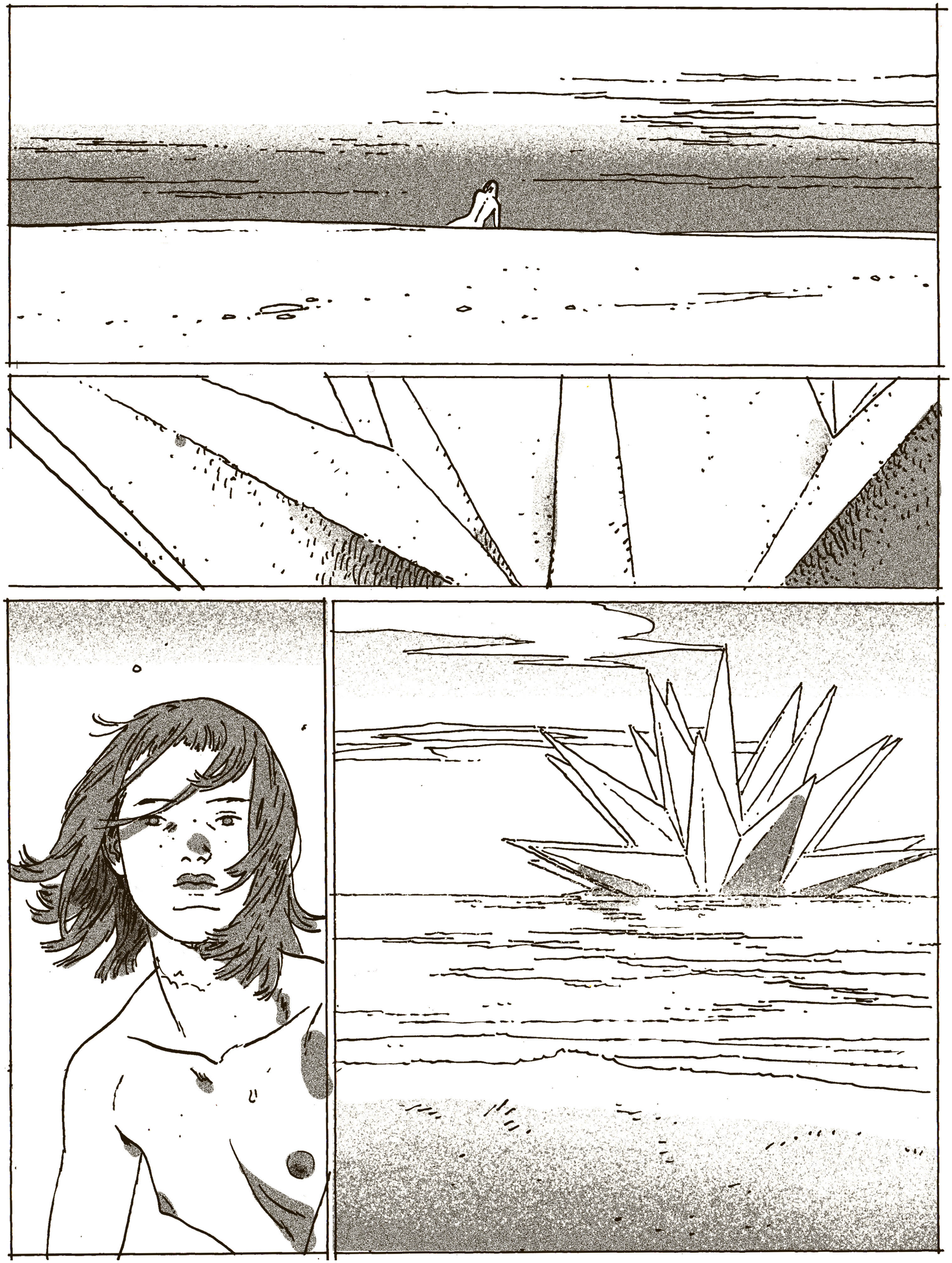
A GARDEN OF SPHERES

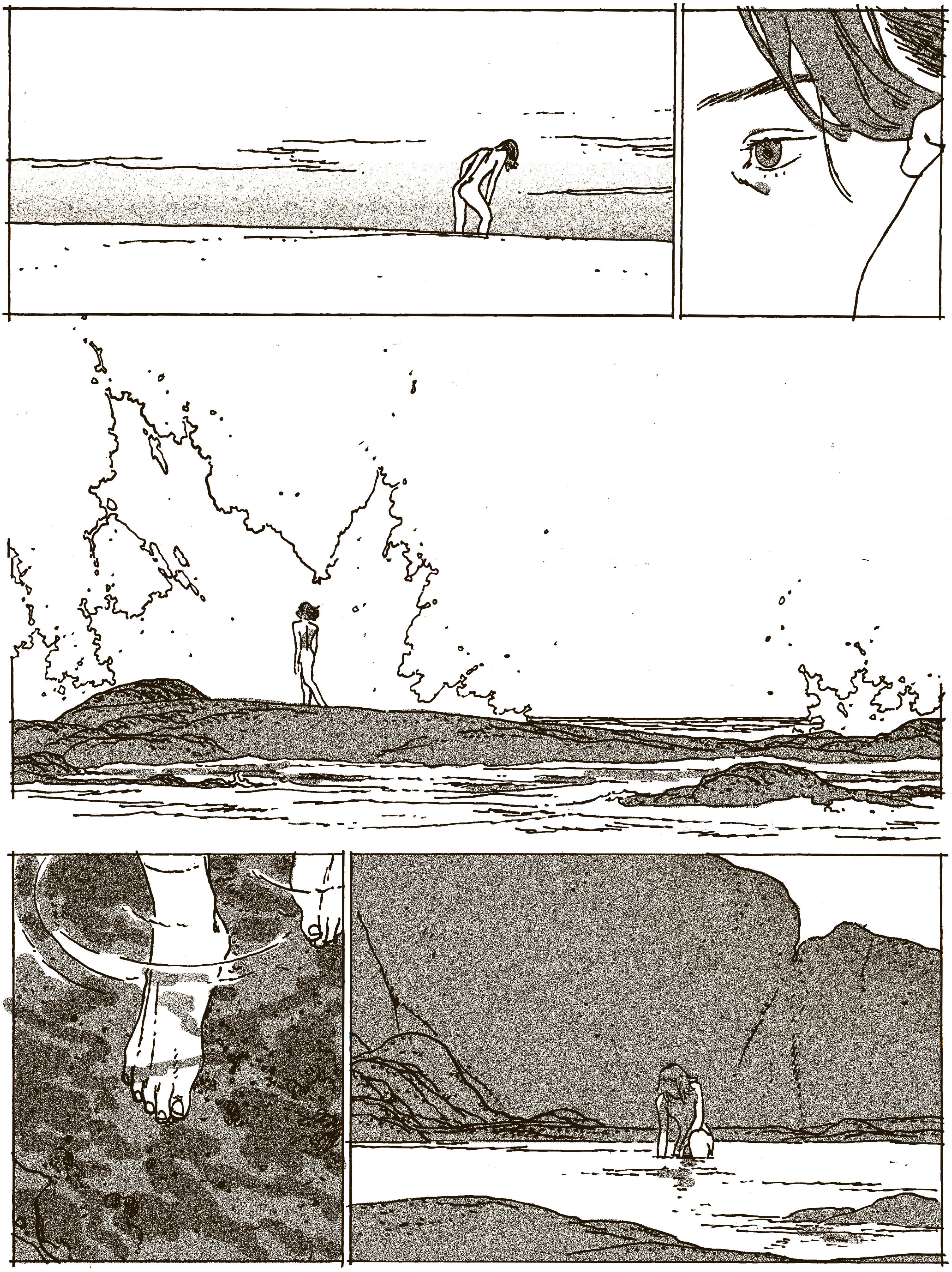
SEA AT THE EDGE OF THE WORLD • UNKNOWN TIME

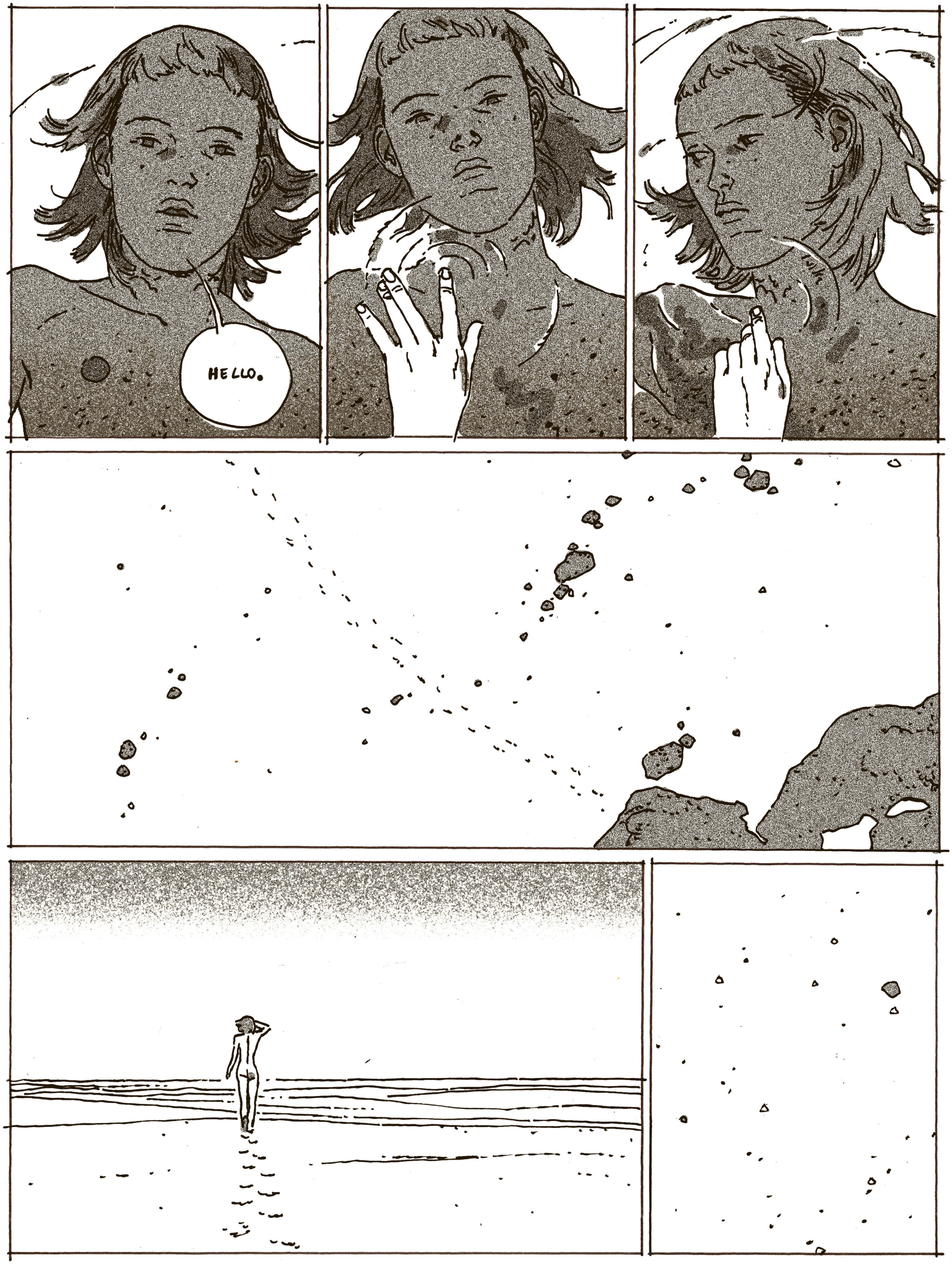
01 • (PROLOGUE)

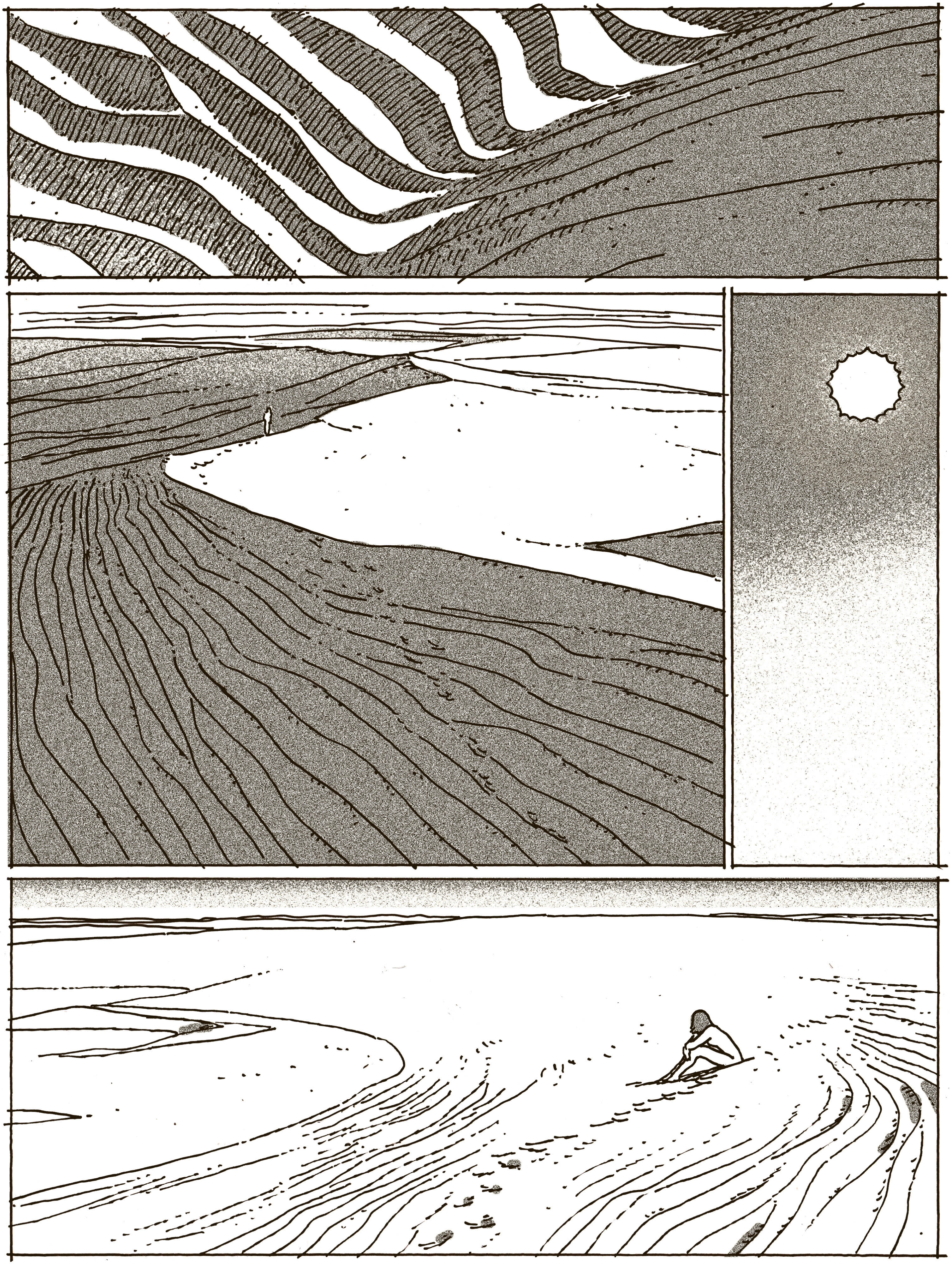


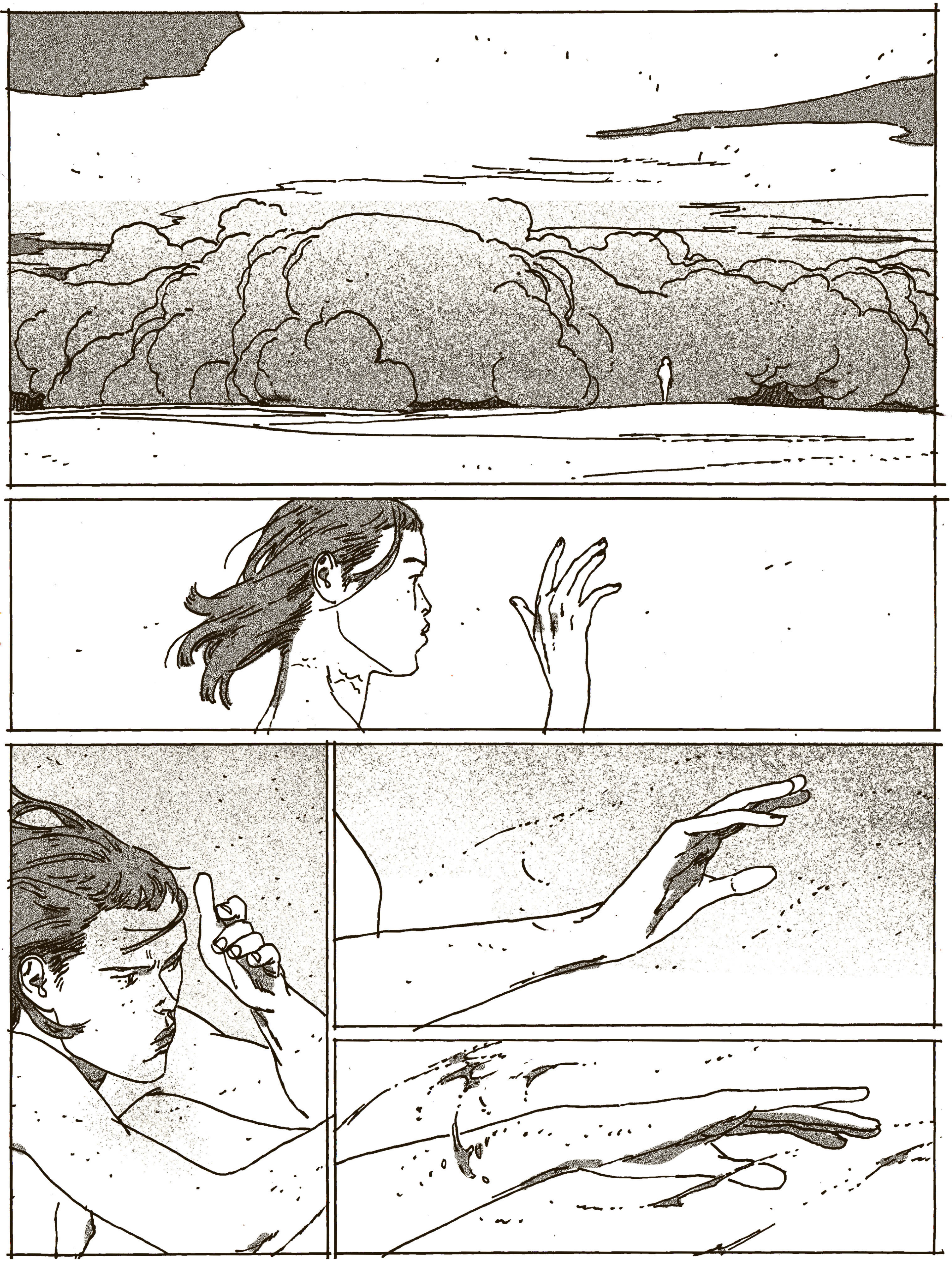


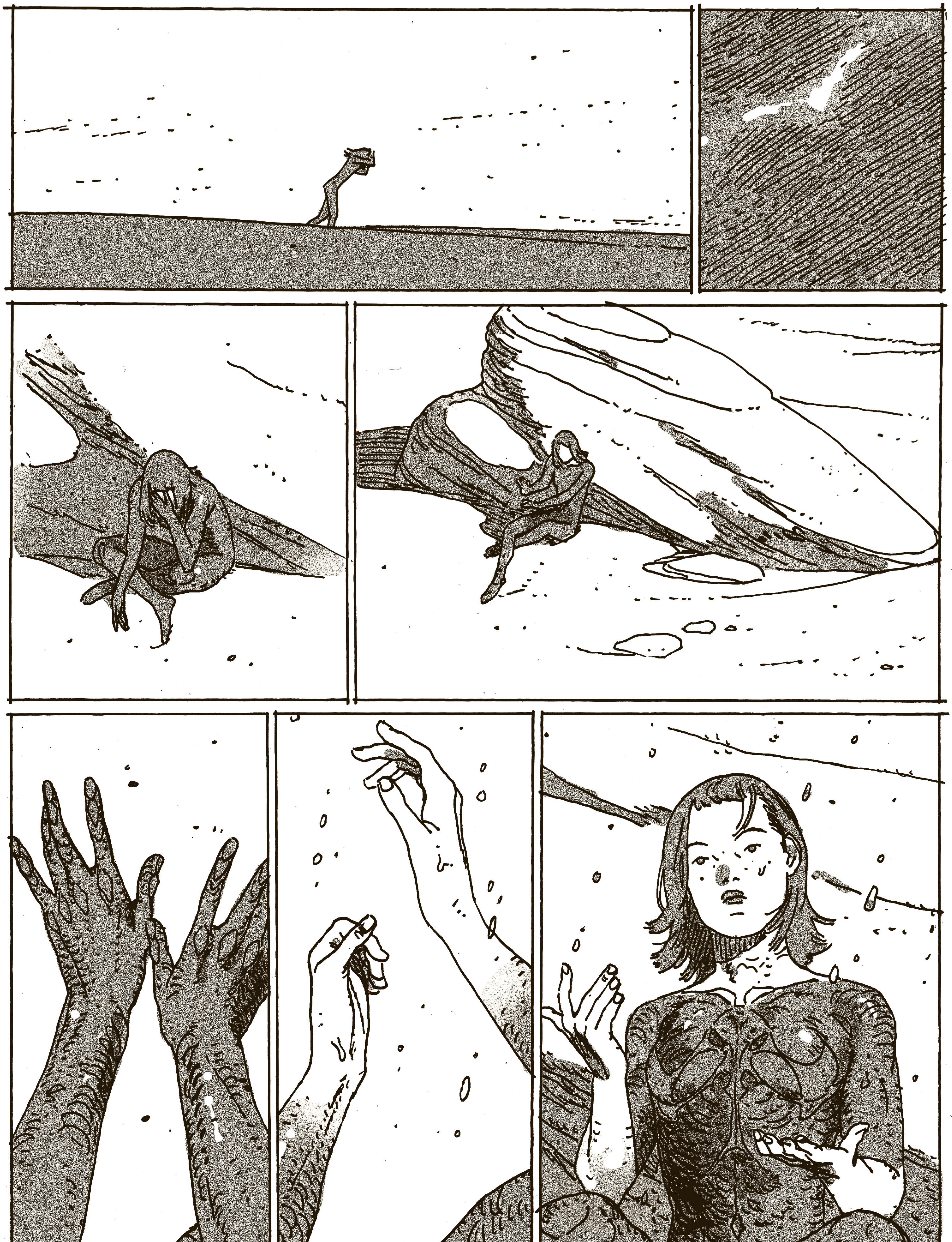


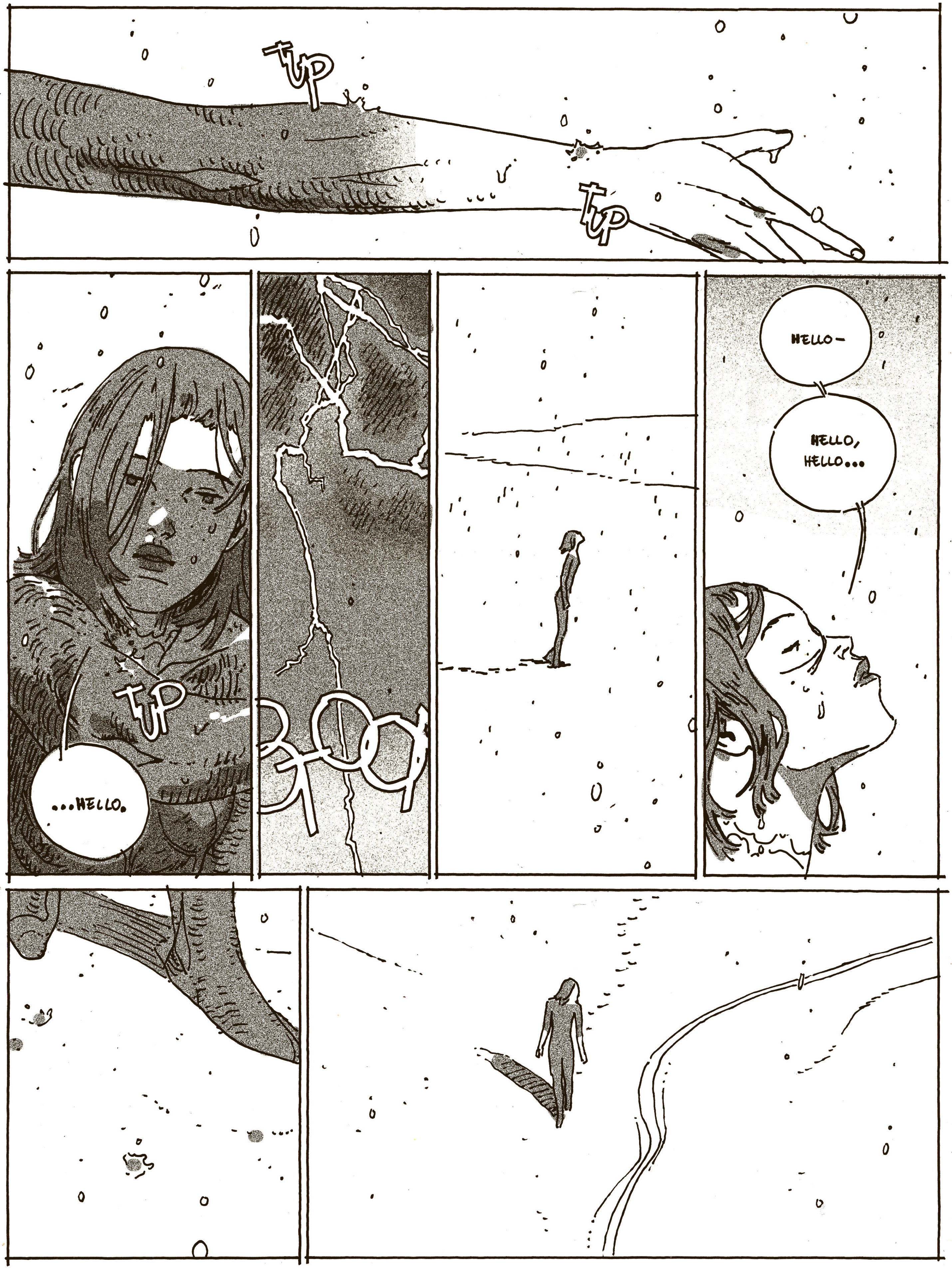



HELLO.

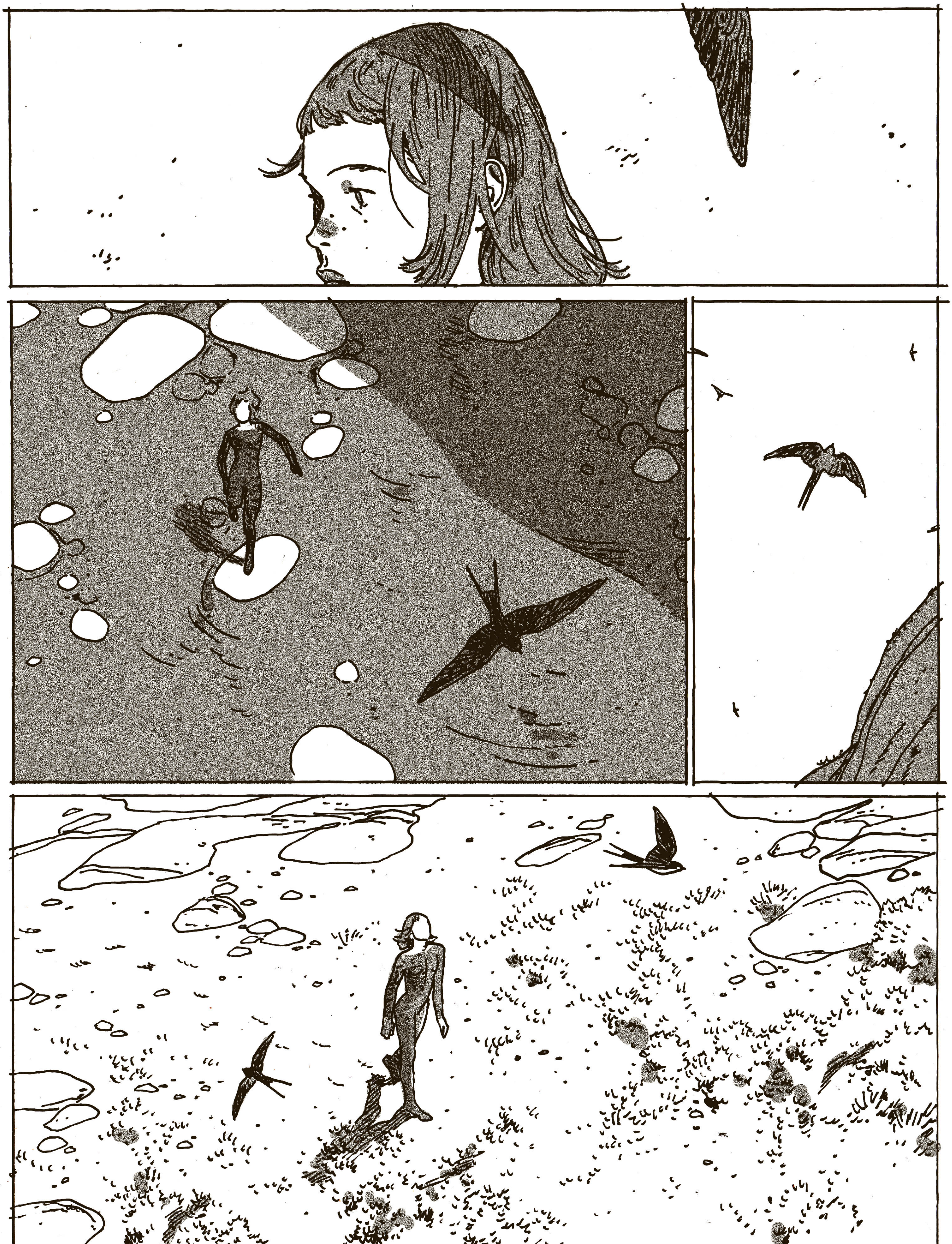




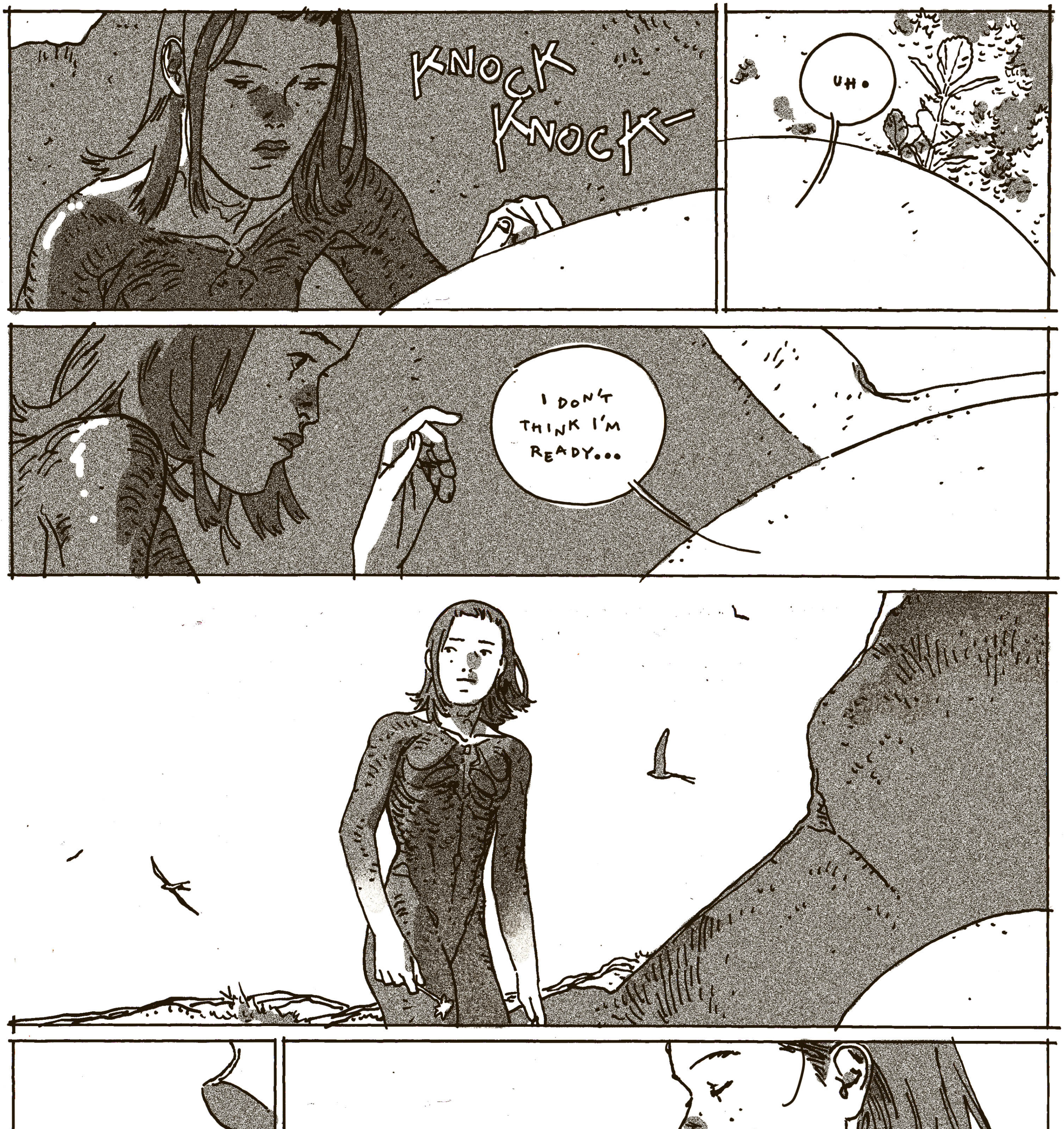




TUP
TUP
TUP
...HELLO.
BOOM
HELLO-
HELLO, HELLO...



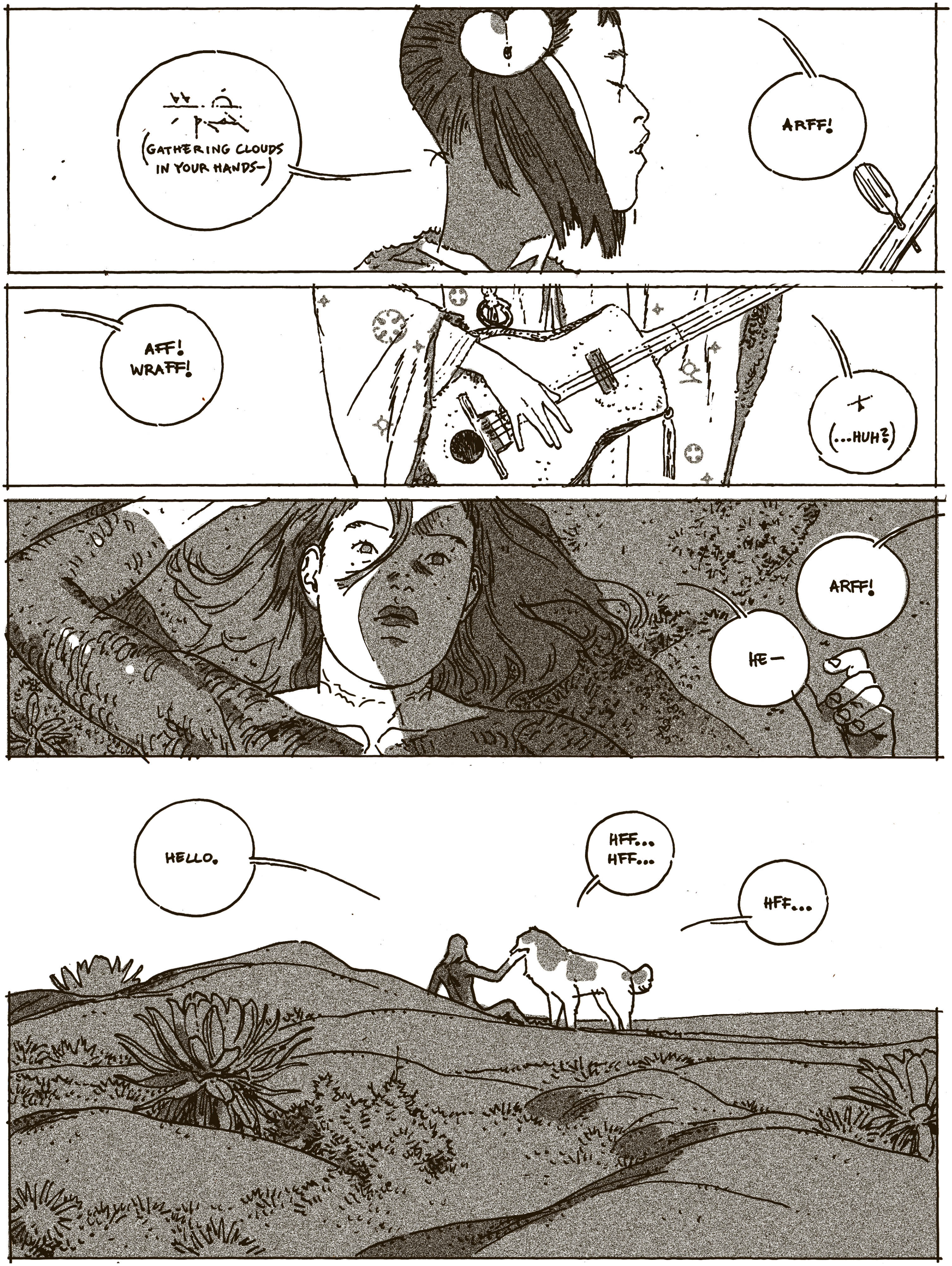
TH -
UD.
HELLO.

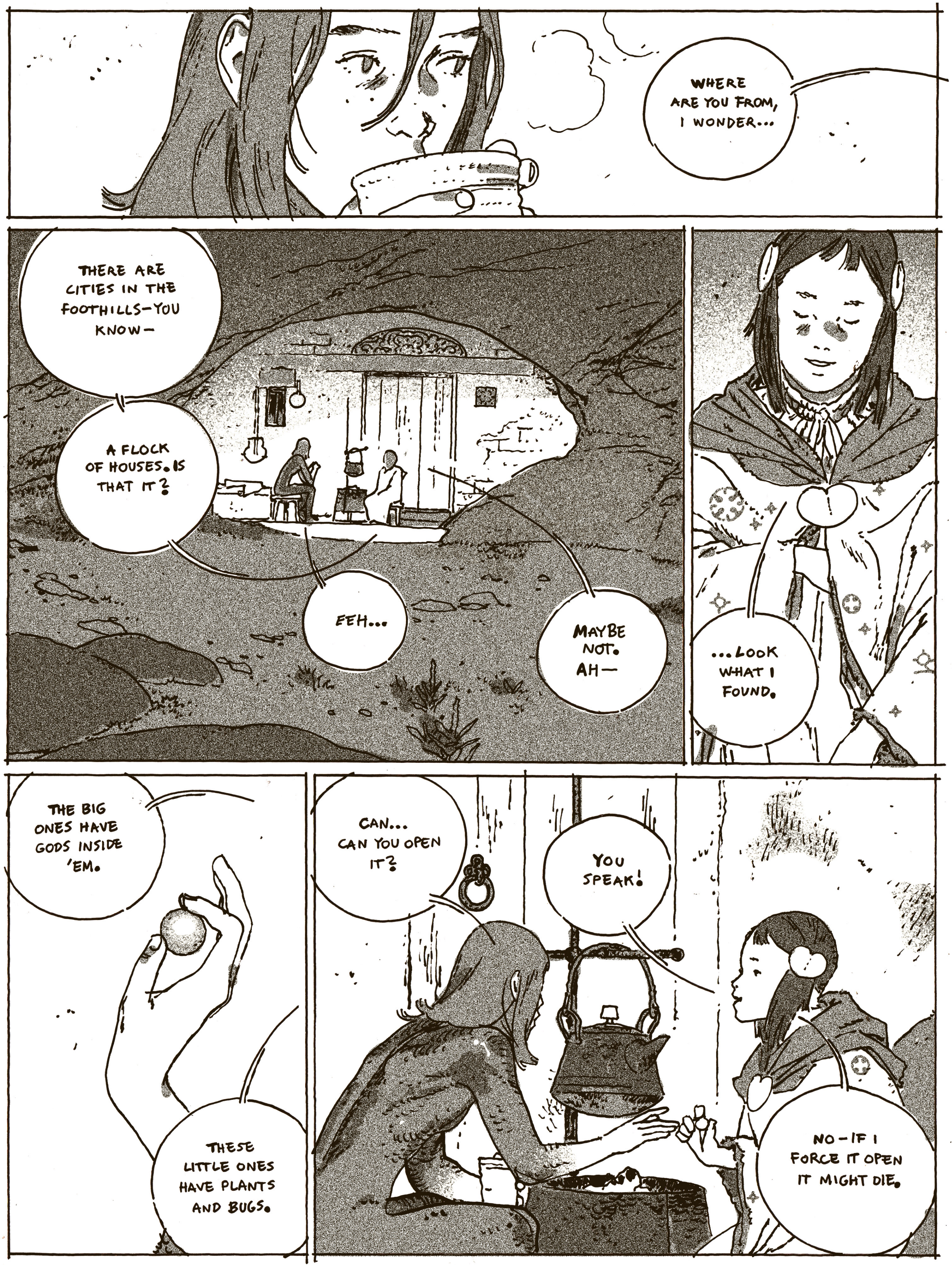

KNOCK KNOCK-
UH.
I DON'T THINK I'M READY...

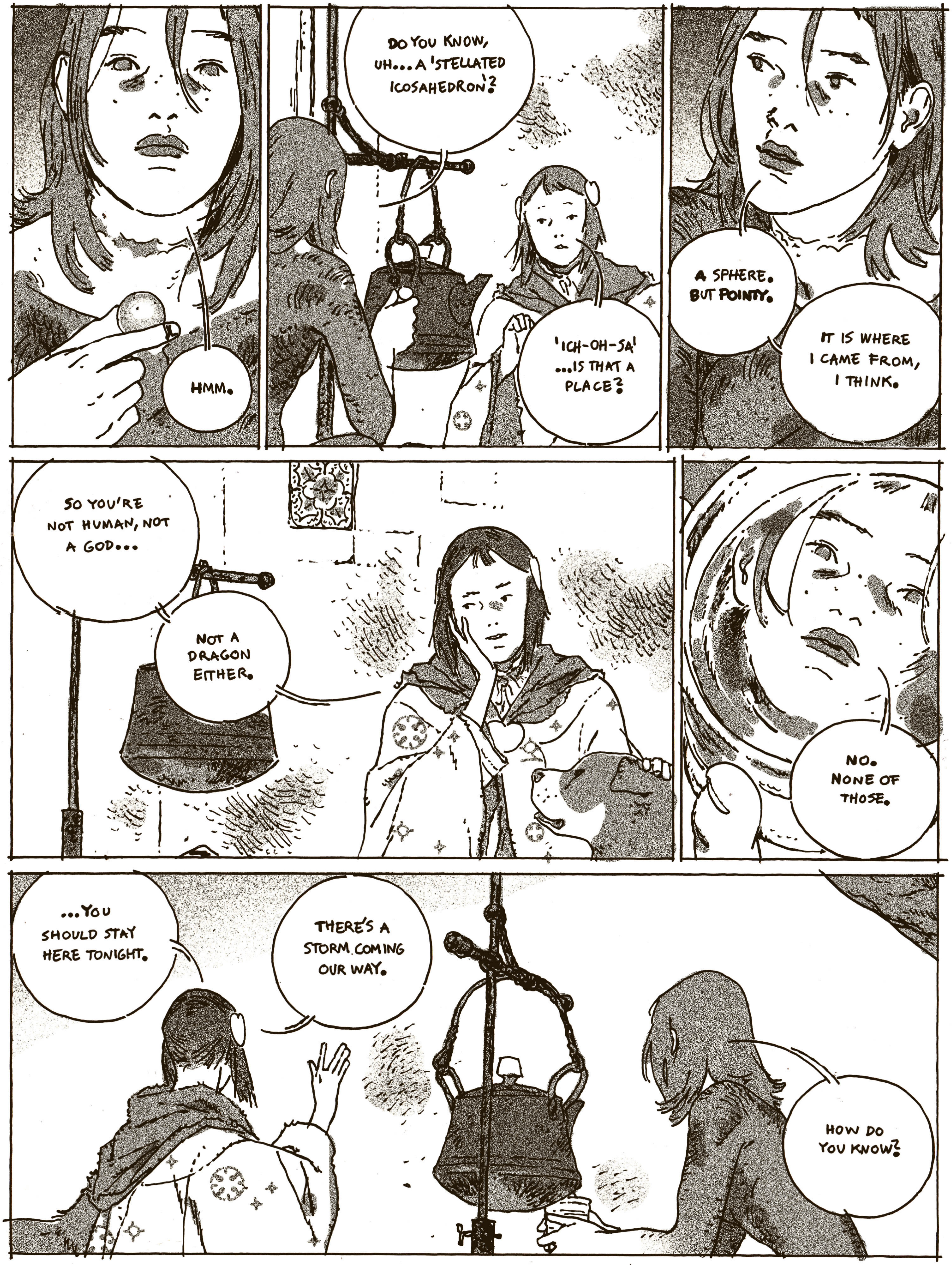
END.

02.00 - MOUNTAINS OF HÚ • UNKNOWN TIME

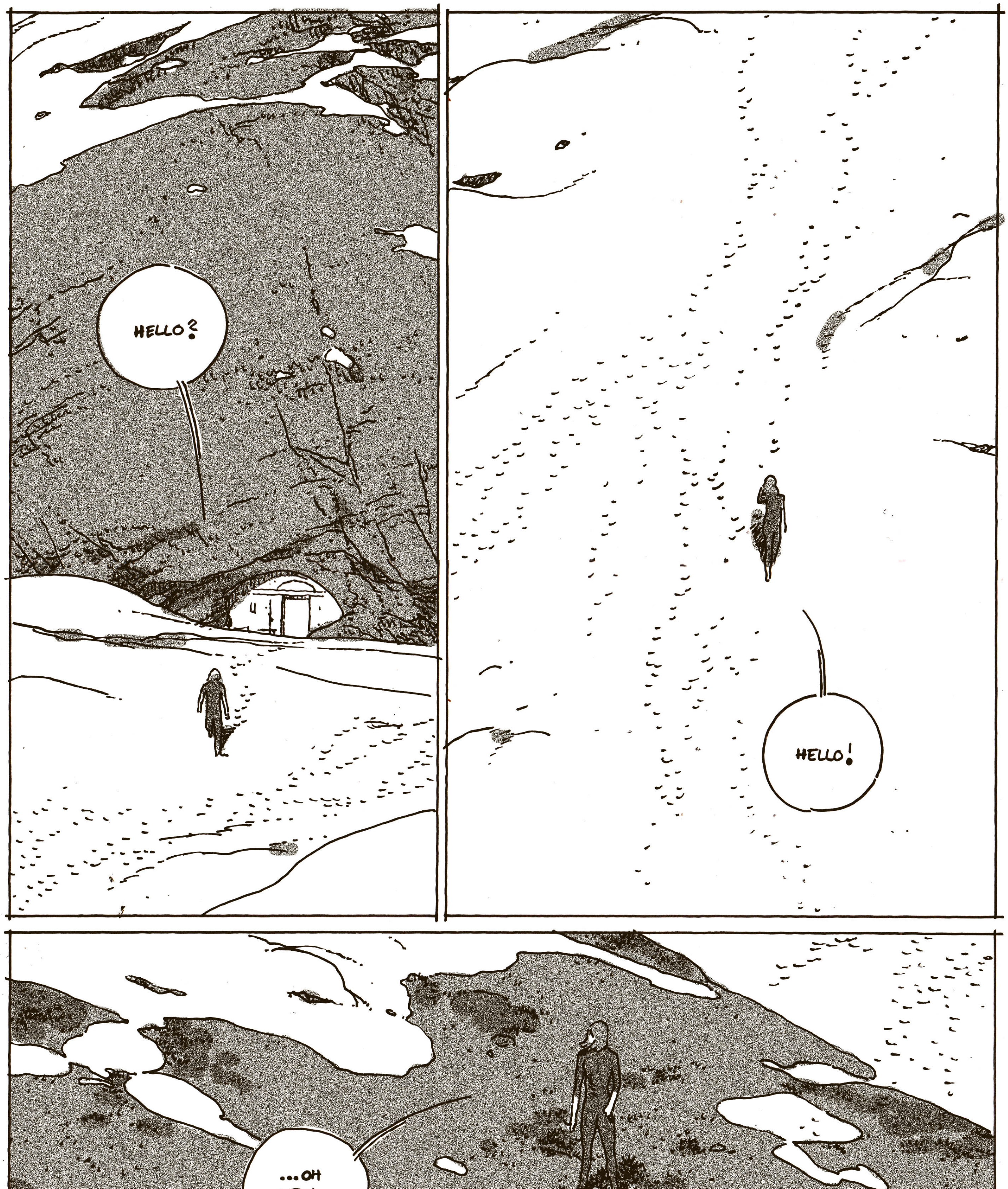
(AUTUMN WINDS—
WINTER WINDS—)
(SPRINGTIME RAINS—
SUMMER RAINS—)
(AND A SUN FOR
EVERY SEASON—)
(OH,
SÉ-SQANNA—)

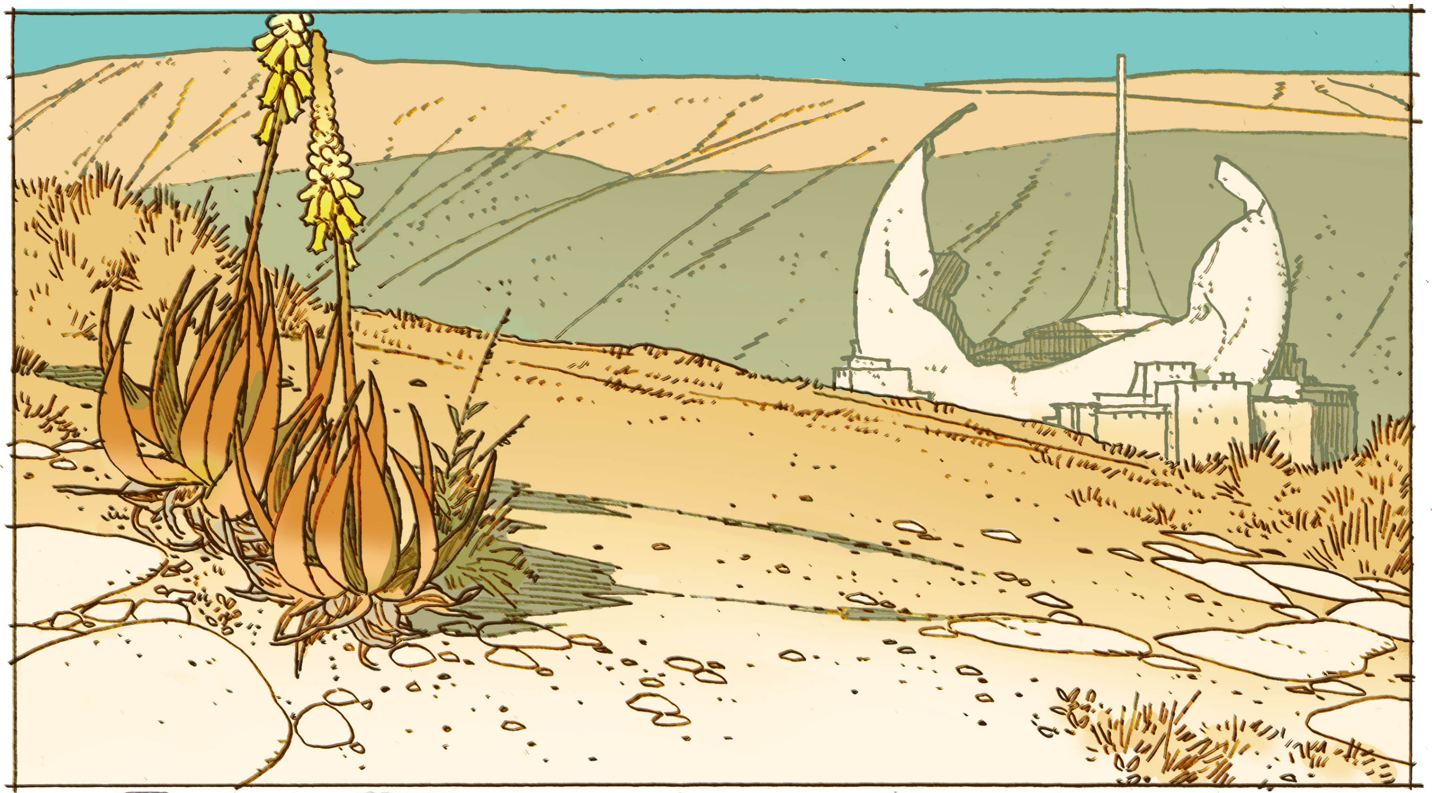

(GATHERING CLOUDS IN YOUR HANDS—)
ARFF!
AFF! WRAFF!
(...HUH?)
ARFF!
HE—
HELLO.
HFF... HFF...
HFF...


WHERE ARE YOU FROM, I WONDER...
THERE ARE CITIES IN THE FOOTHILLS—YOU KNOW—
A FLOCK OF HOUSES. IS THAT IT?
EEH...
MAYBE NOT. AH—
...LOOK WHAT I FOUND.
THE BIG ONES HAVE GODS INSIDE 'EM.
THESE LITTLE ONES HAVE PLANTS AND BUGS.
CAN... CAN YOU OPEN IT?
YOU SPEAK!
NO—IF I FORCE IT OPEN IT MIGHT DIE.


HMM.
DO YOU KNOW, UH... A 'STELLATED ICOSAHEDRON'?
'ICH-OH-SA' ...IS THAT A PLACE?
A SPHERE. BUT POINTY.
IT IS WHERE I CAME FROM, I THINK.
SO YOU'RE NOT HUMAN, NOT A GOD...
NOT A DRAGON EITHER.
NO. NONE OF THOSE.
...YOU SHOULD STAY HERE TONIGHT.
THERE'S A STORM COMING OUR WAY.
HOW DO YOU KNOW?

'IT'S A TALENT I HAVE—'
'A GIFT.'


HELLO?
HELLO!
...OH WELL.
END.



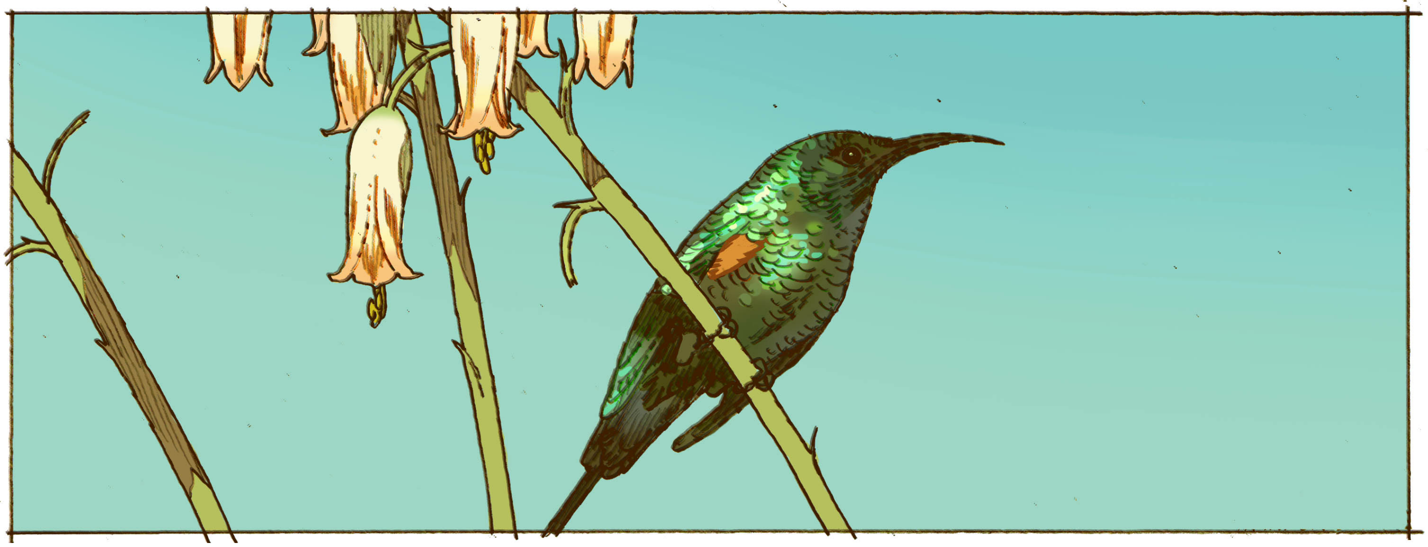
A GARDEN OF SPHERES.

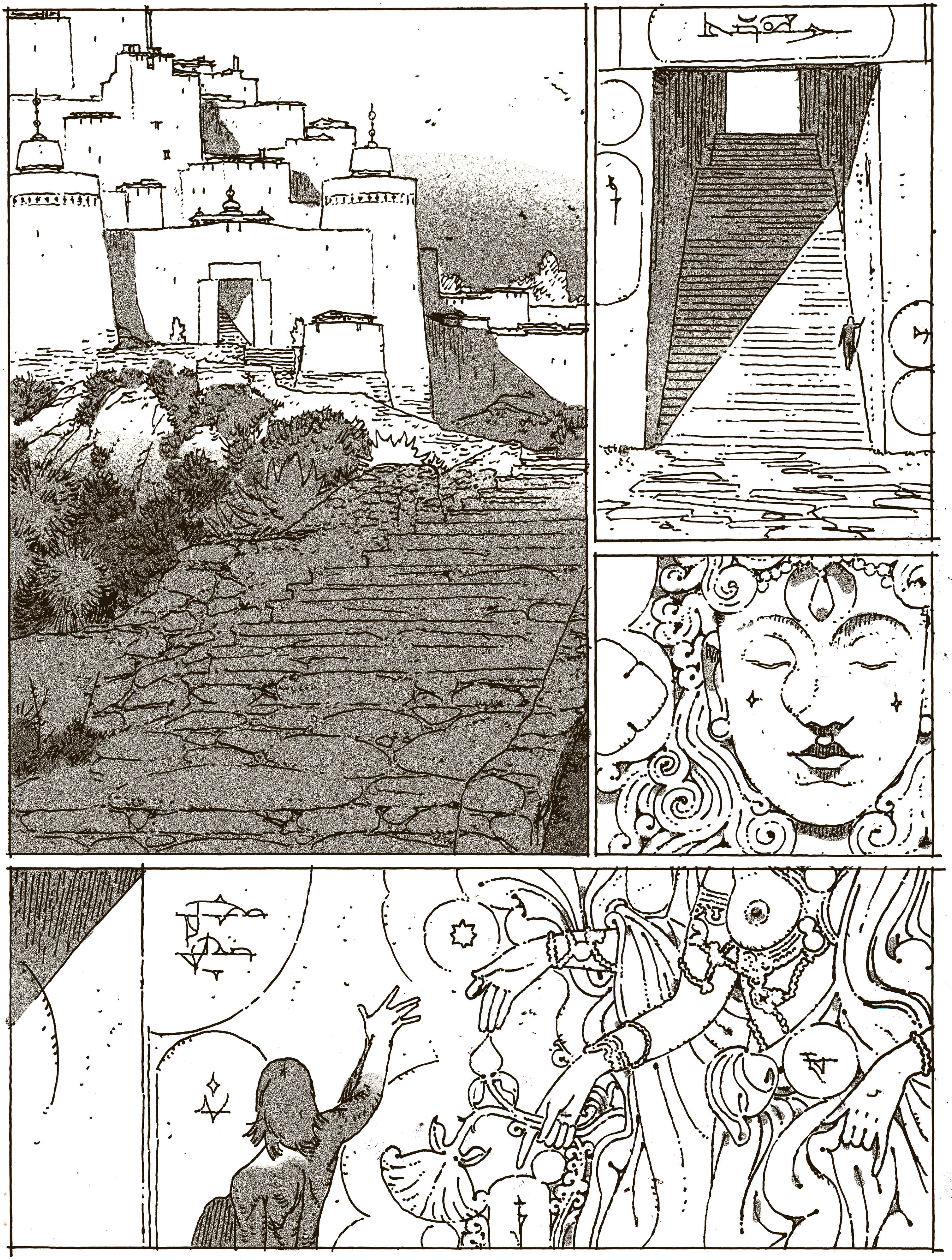
MOUNTAINS OF MERYUM • CITY OF AMBRENN •

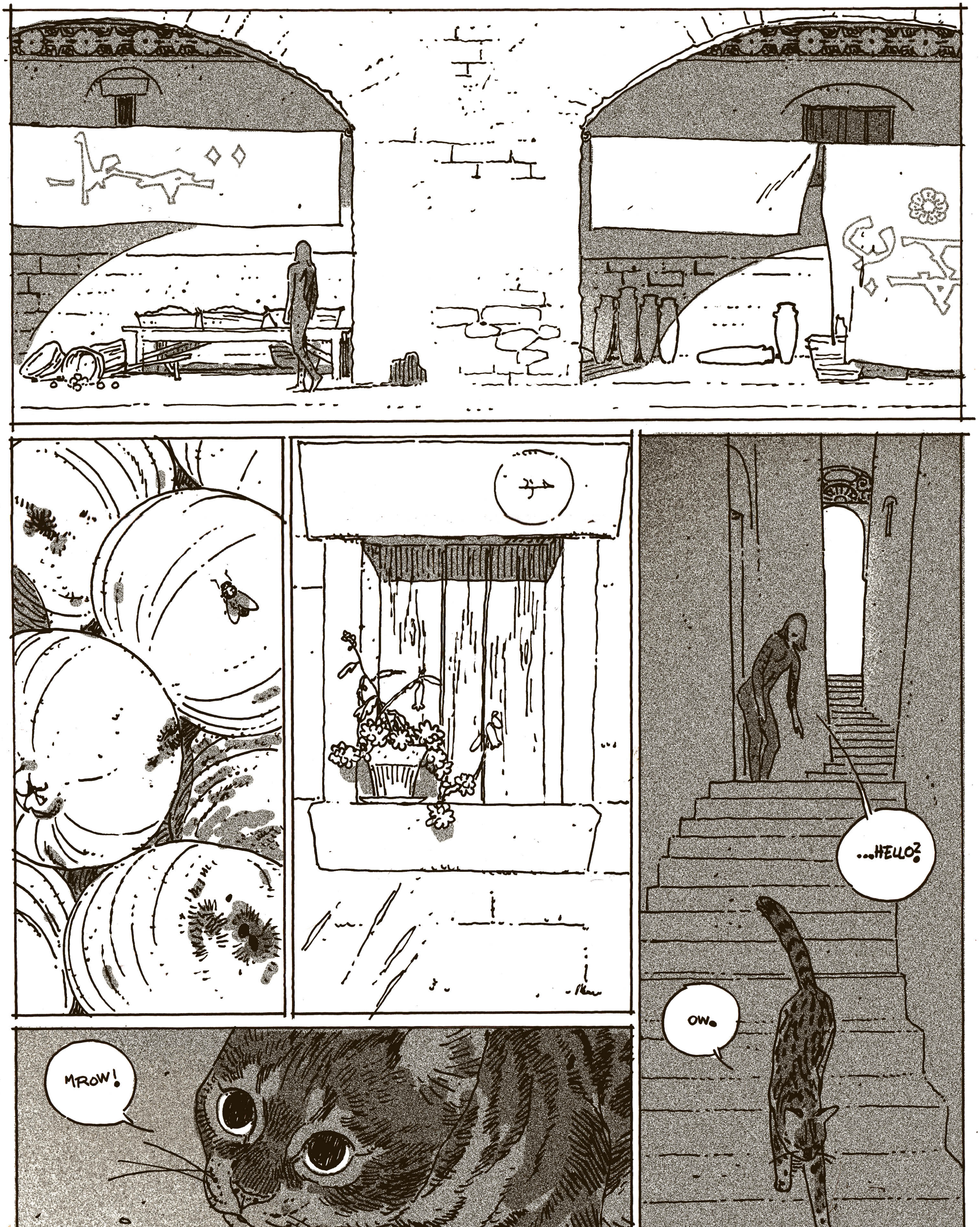
LOCAL TIME – HÓN MORA YEAR 0

SOLMAAR STANDARD YEAR – 835 • ('THE FORMING YEARS')

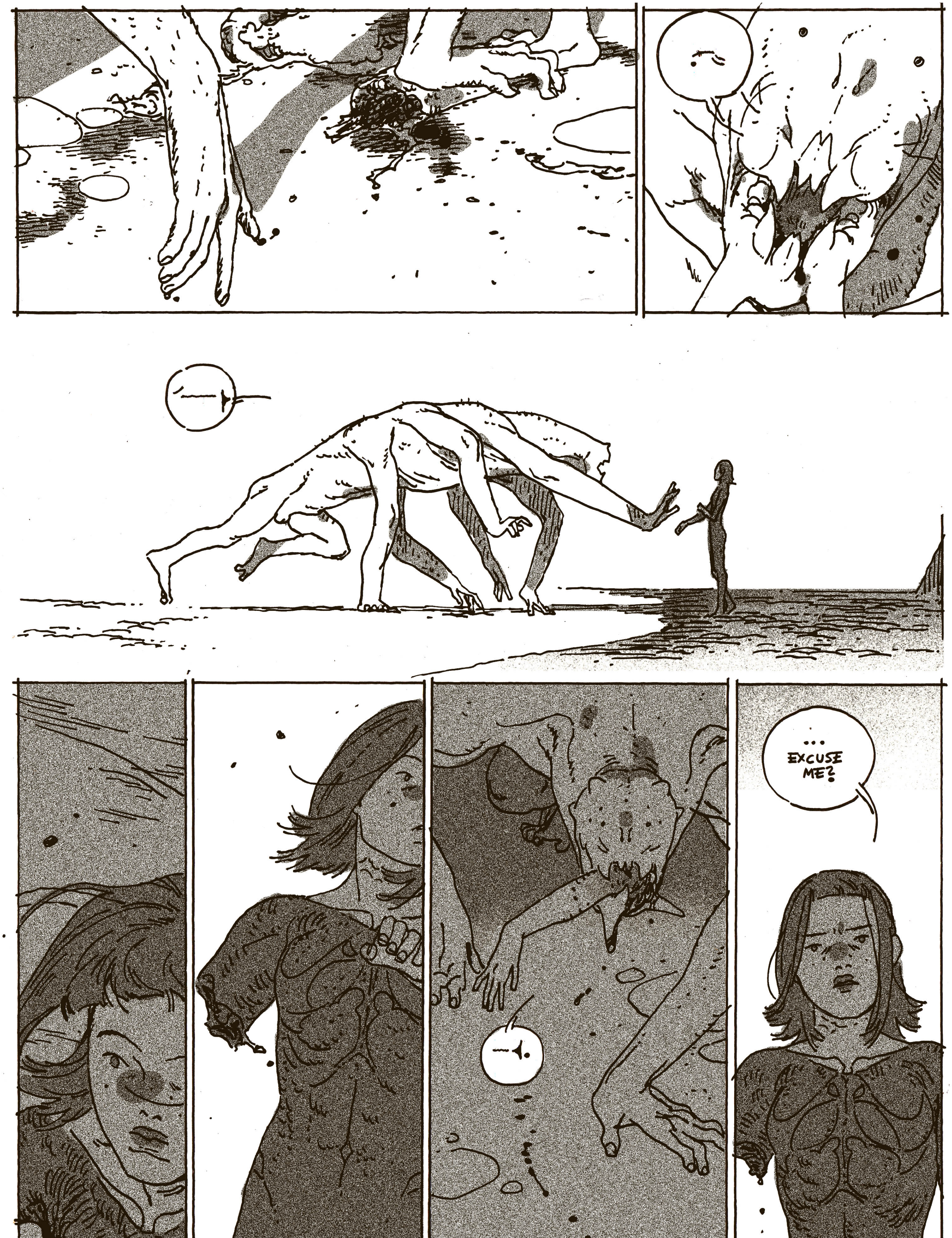
02.01

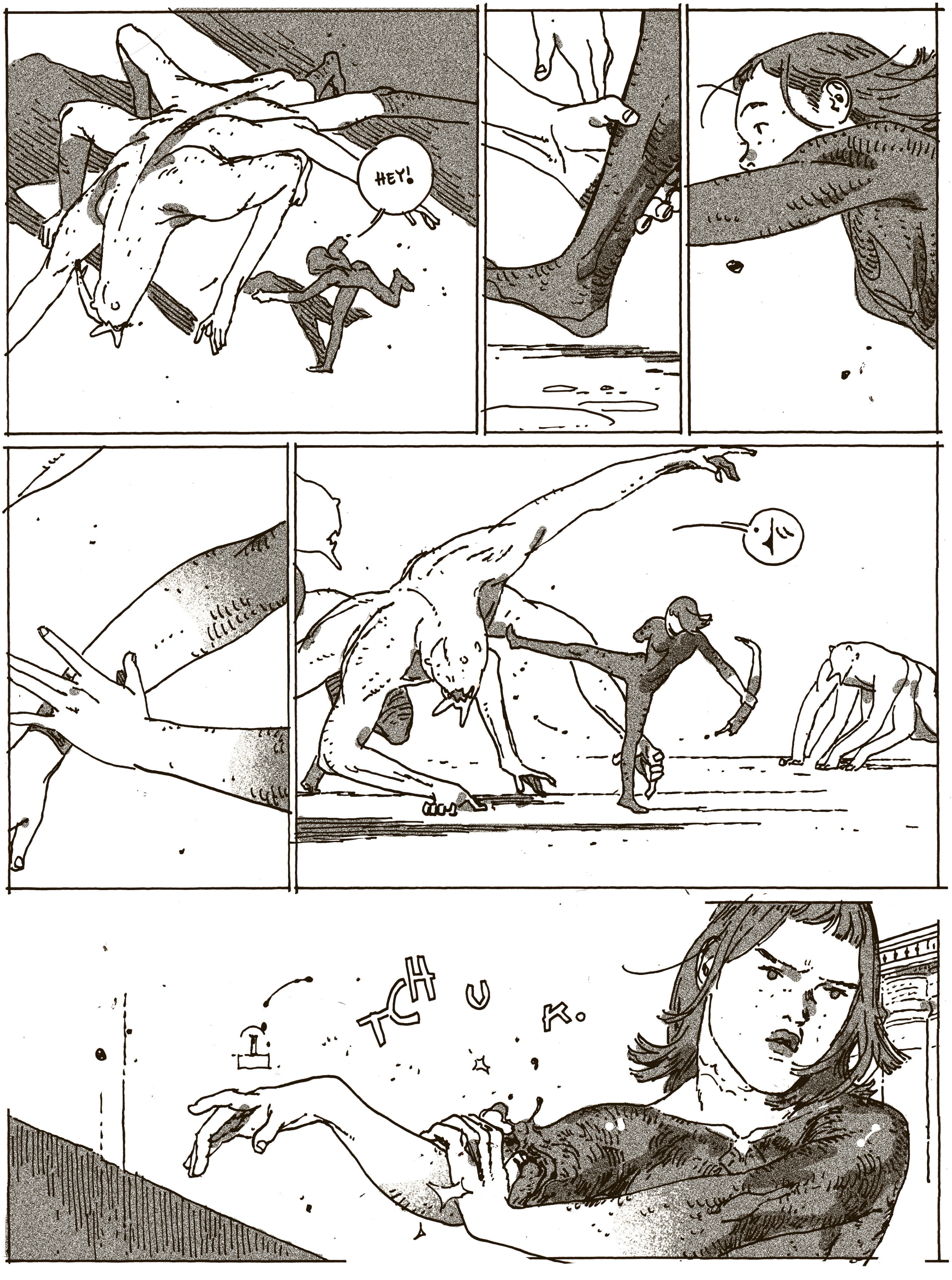




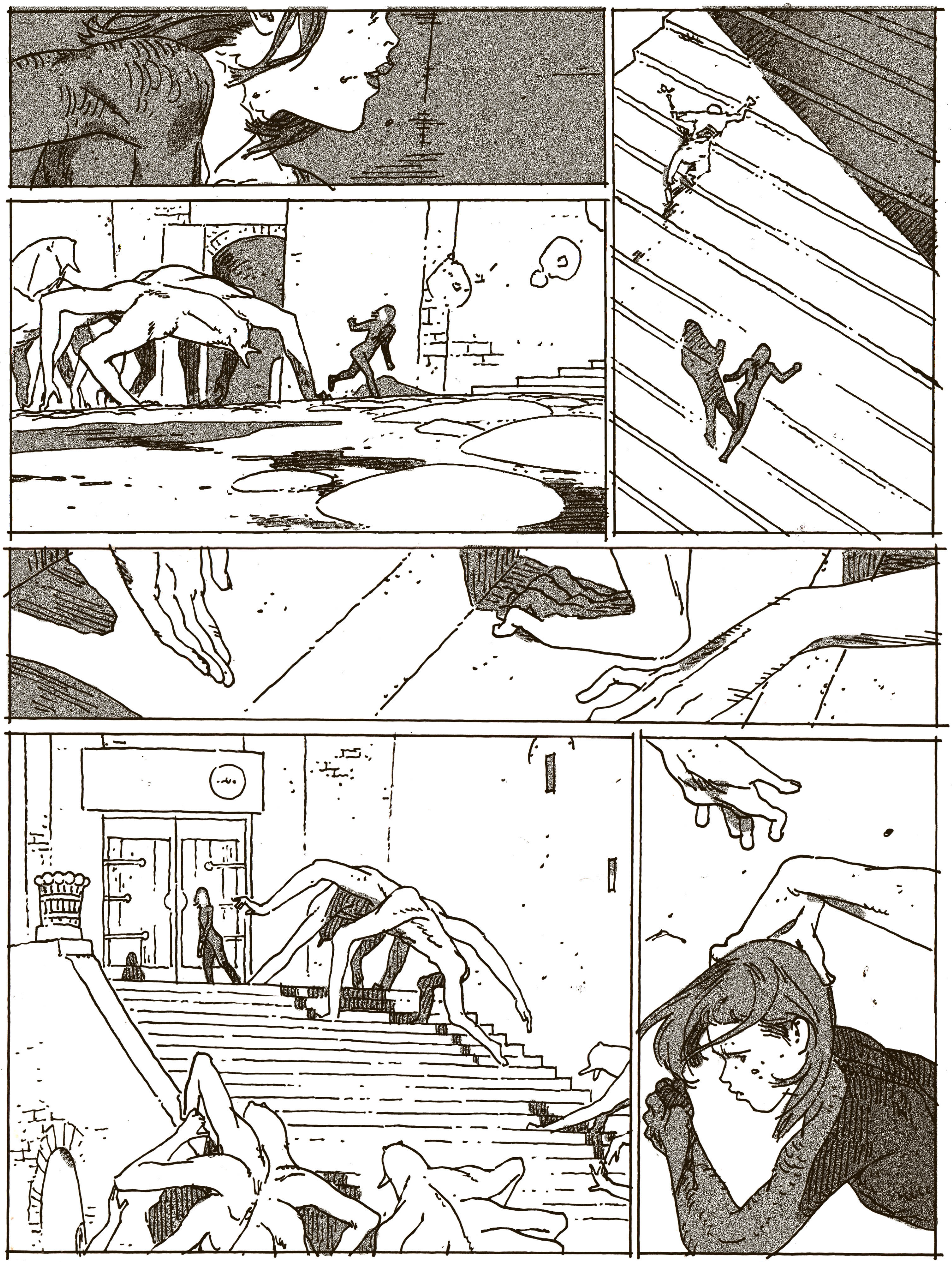

...HELLO?
OW.
MROW!

UH... HELLO?

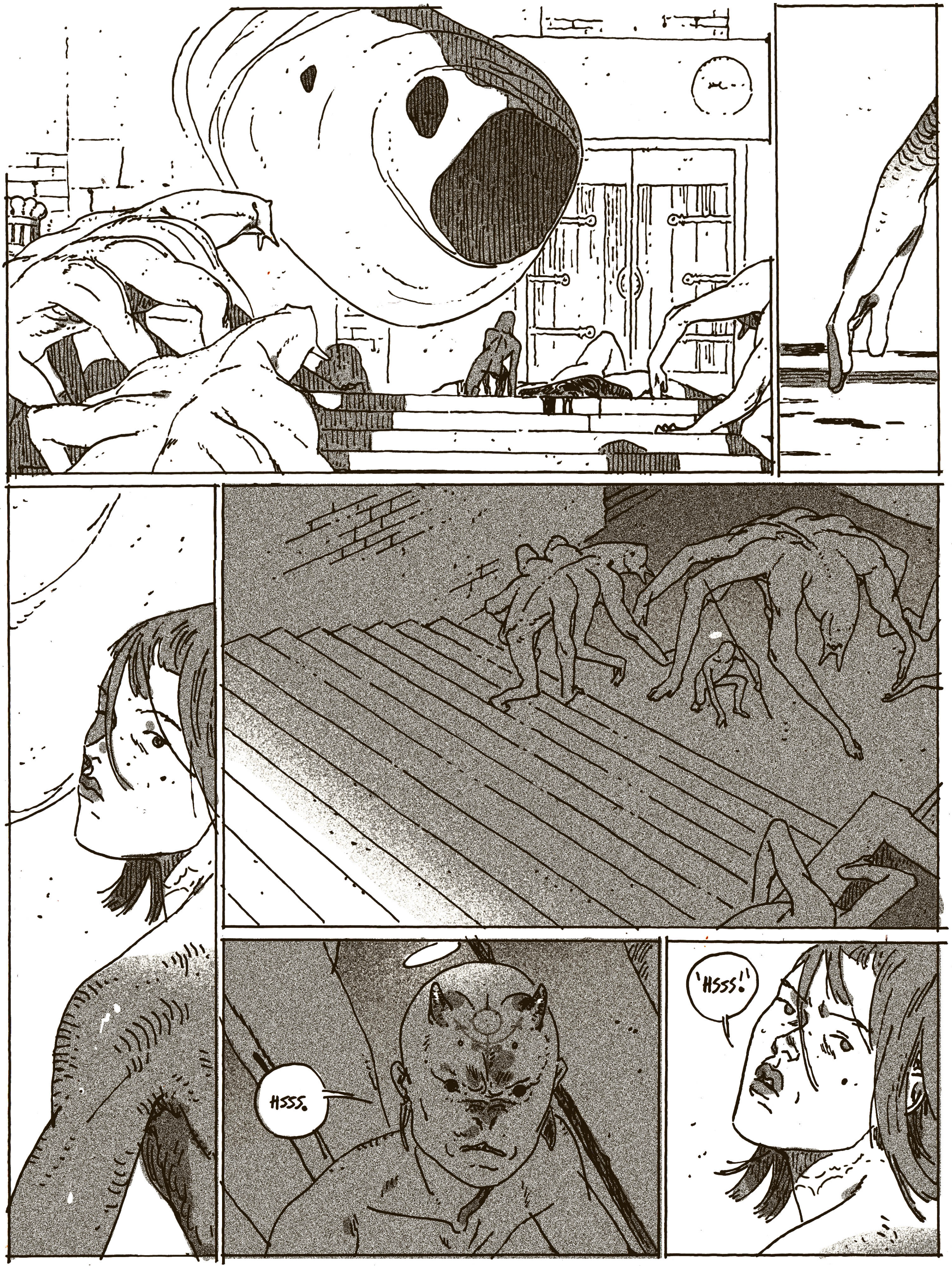

...
EXCUSE ME?

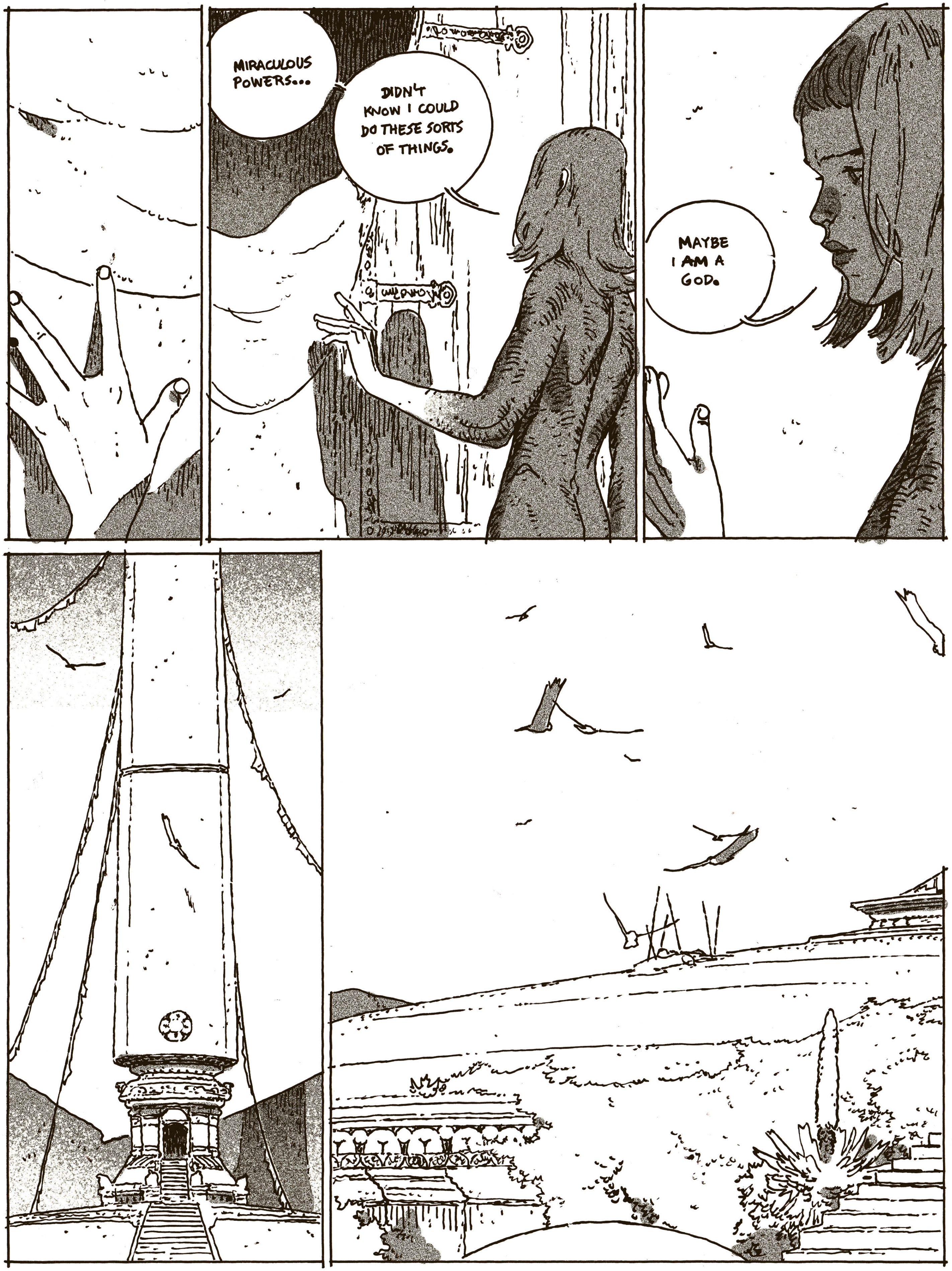

HEY!
TCHUK.

PTHU—

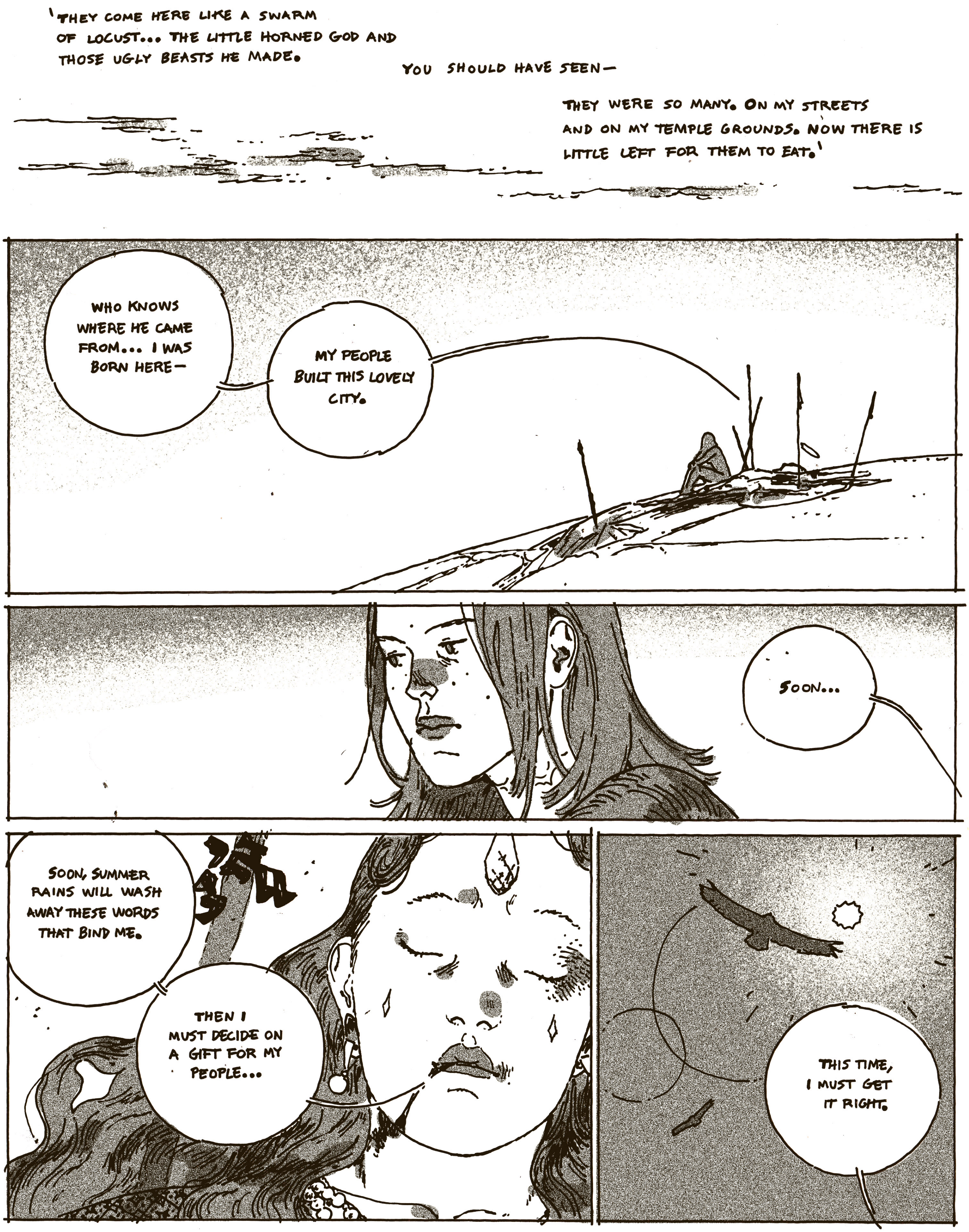


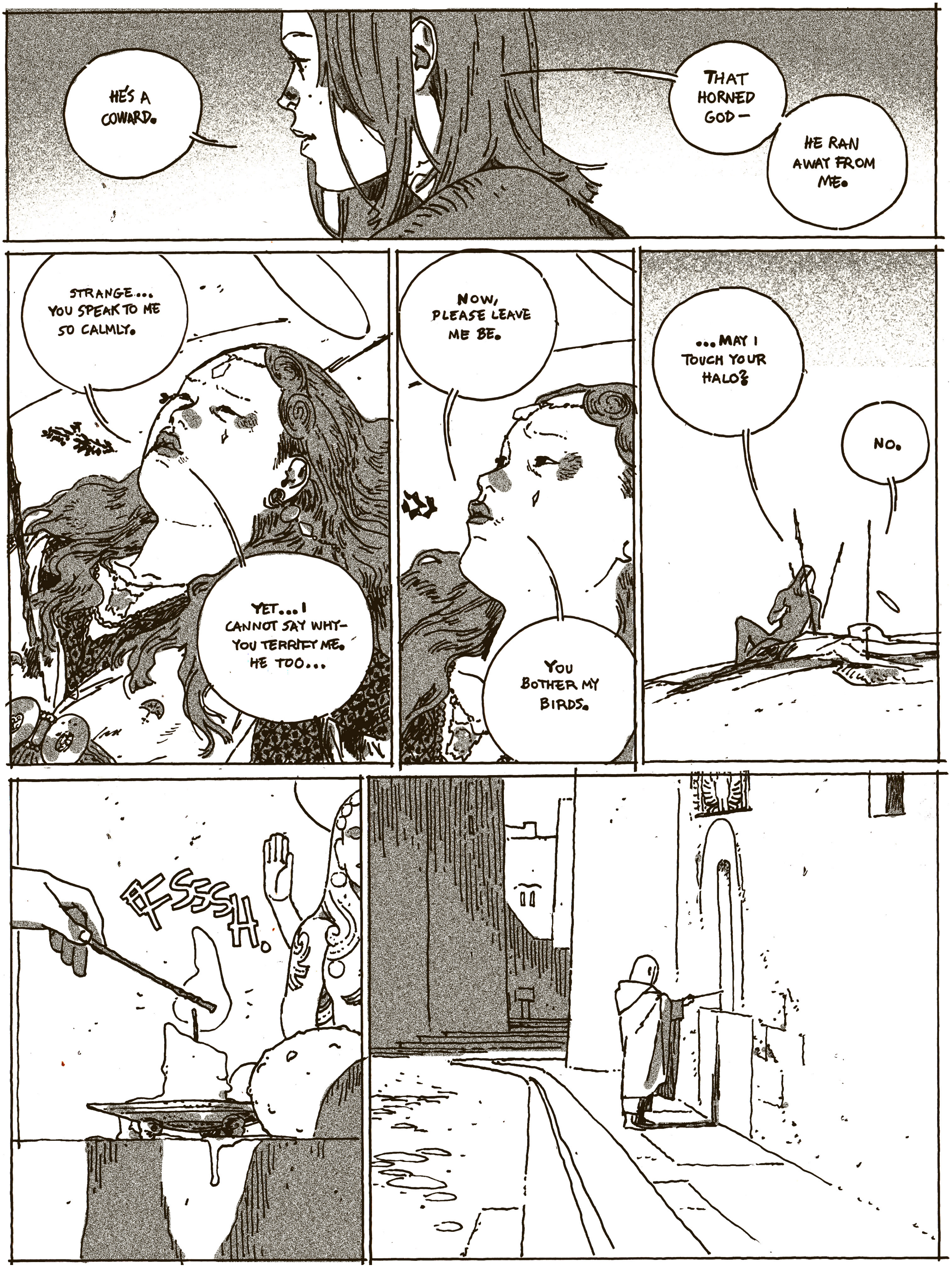
UH-

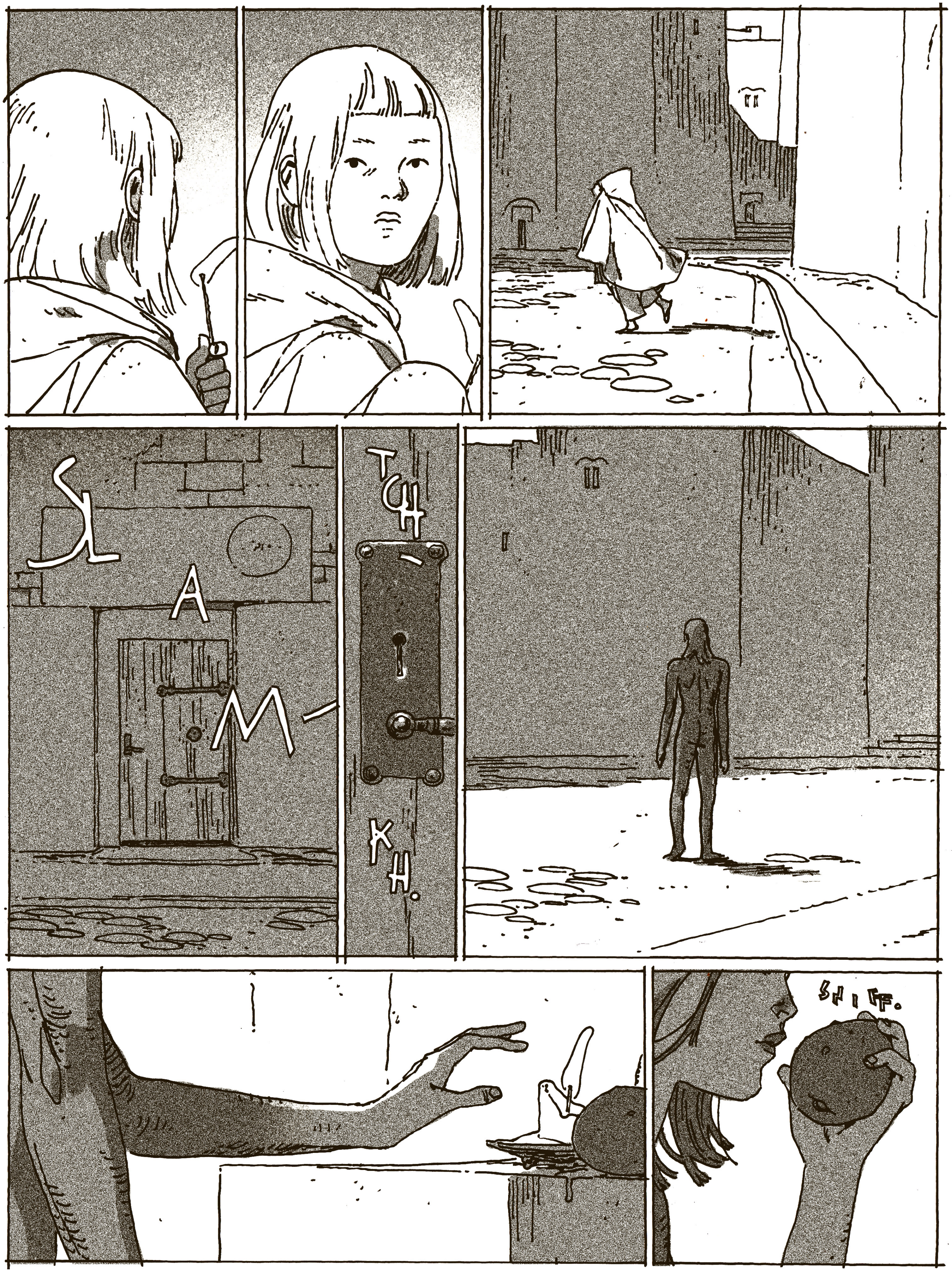

HSSS.
'HSSS!'


MIRACULOUS POWERS...
DIDN'T KNOW I COULD DO THESE SORTS OF THINGS.
MAYBE I AM A GOD.

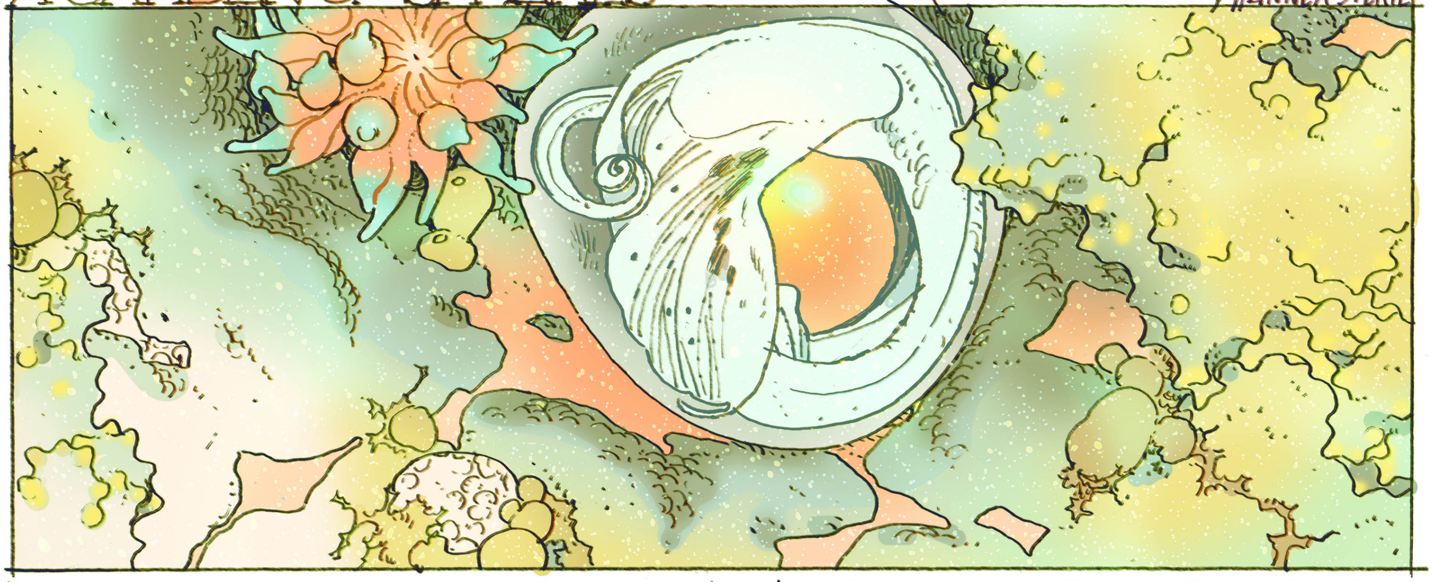
HELLO?


'THEY COME HERE LIKE A SWARM OF LOCUST... THE LITTLE HORNED GOD AND THOSE UGLY BEASTS HE MADE.
YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN—
THEY WERE SO MANY. ON MY STREETS AND ON MY TEMPLE GROUNDS. NOW THERE IS LITTLE LEFT FOR THEM TO EAT.'
WHO KNOWS WHERE HE CAME FROM... I WAS BORN HERE—
MY PEOPLE BUILT THIS LOVELY CITY.
SOON...
SOON, SUMMER RAINS WILL WASH AWAY THESE WORDS THAT BIND ME.
THEN I MUST DECIDE ON A GIFT FOR MY PEOPLE...
THIS TIME, I MUST GET IT RIGHT.

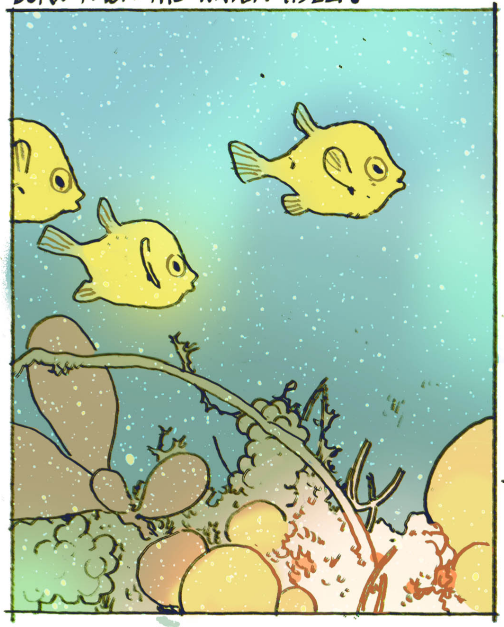

HE'S A COWARD.
THAT HORNED GOD—
HE RAN AWAY FROM ME.
STRANGE... YOU SPEAK TO ME SO CALMLY.
YET... I CANNOT SAY WHY— YOU TERRIFY ME. HE TOO...
NOW, PLEASE LEAVE ME BE.
YOU BOTHER MY BIRDS.
...MAY I TOUCH YOUR HALO?
NO.
FSSSH.

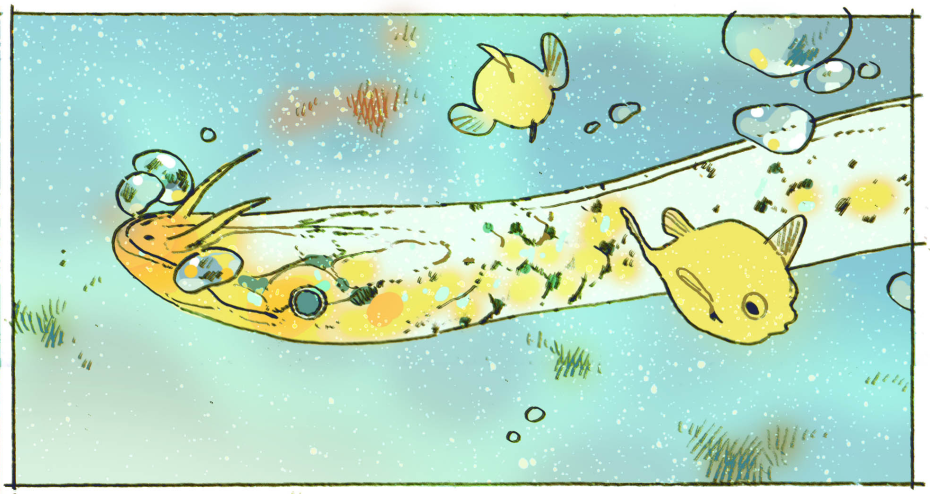

SLAM-
TCH-KH.
SNIFF.

02.01
END.

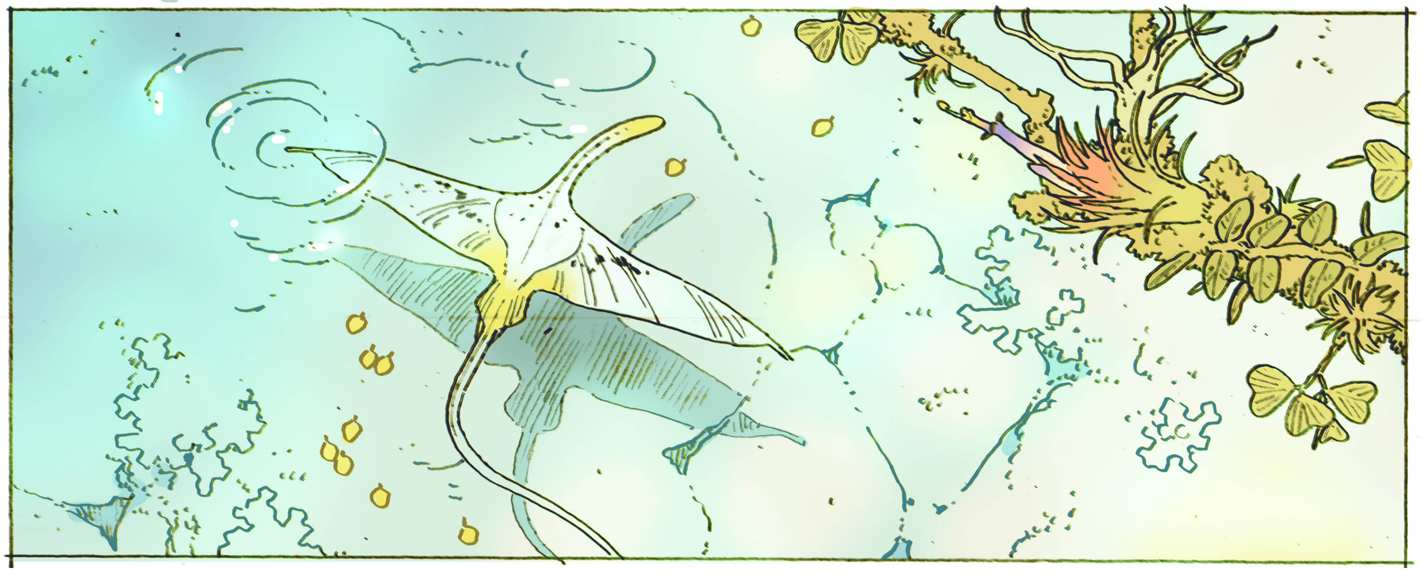


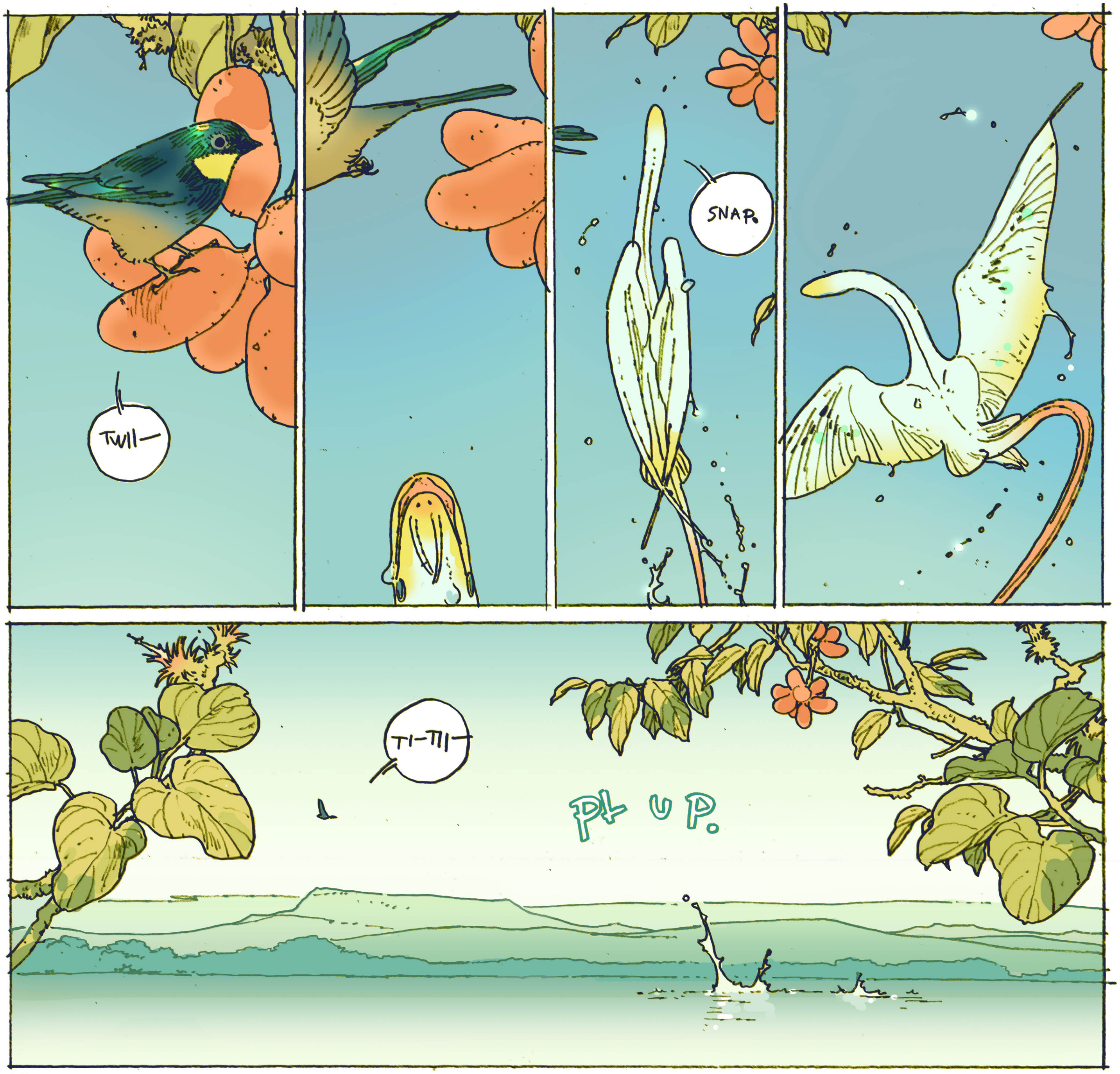
'THE LITTLE CREATURE KNOWN TO THE PEOPLES OF ELSHAWHAN AS 'KUUWI': IT LIVES IN THE UPWARD TRIBUTARIES OF THE BLUE VOLTA AND SOMETIMES DOWNSTREAM AND IT IS SAID TO BE THE YOUNG OF THE DRAGON OF THAT RIVER, THOUGH THE FIRST DRAGONS WERE BORN FROM THE WATER ITSELF.



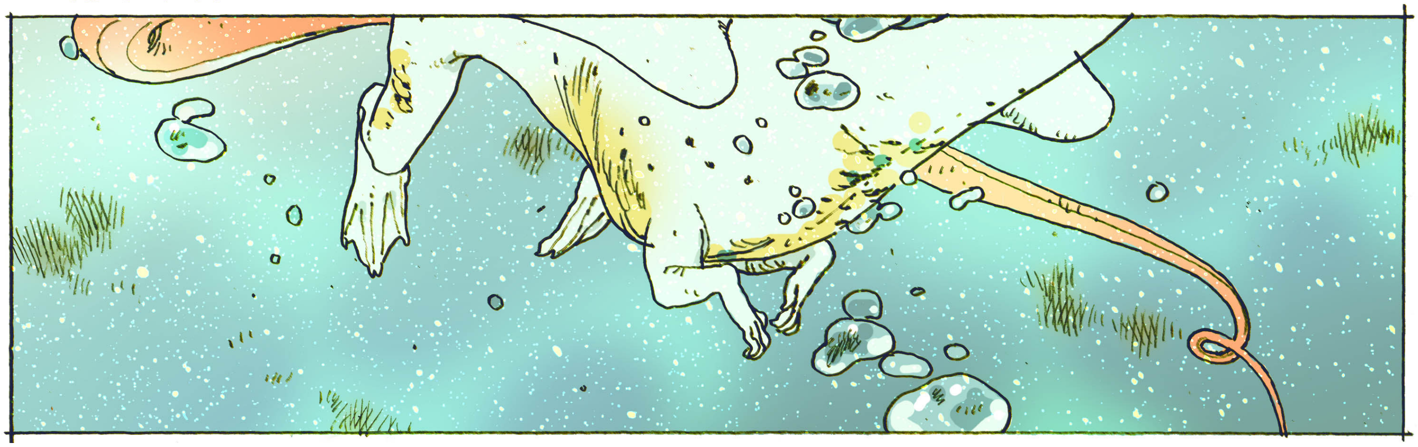


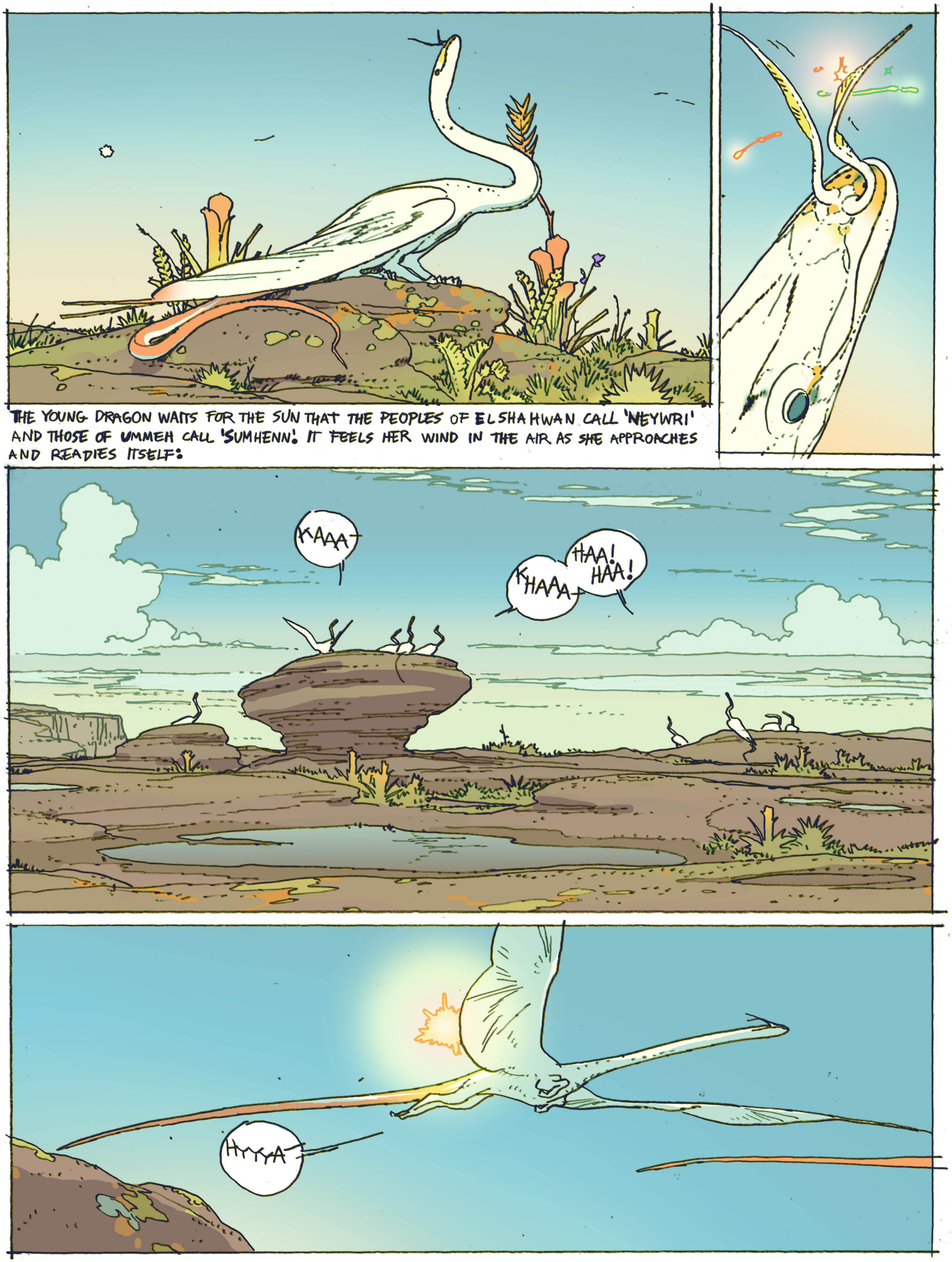
A NUN OF GENTLE ELLISHEN ONCE CAUGHT SUCH A CREATURE. IT WAS KEPT IN A POND WHERE IT THRIVED FOR THREE HUNDRED AND FORTY-ONE YEARS, GROWING LARGE ON THE OFFERINGS LEFT BY THE FAITHFUL.



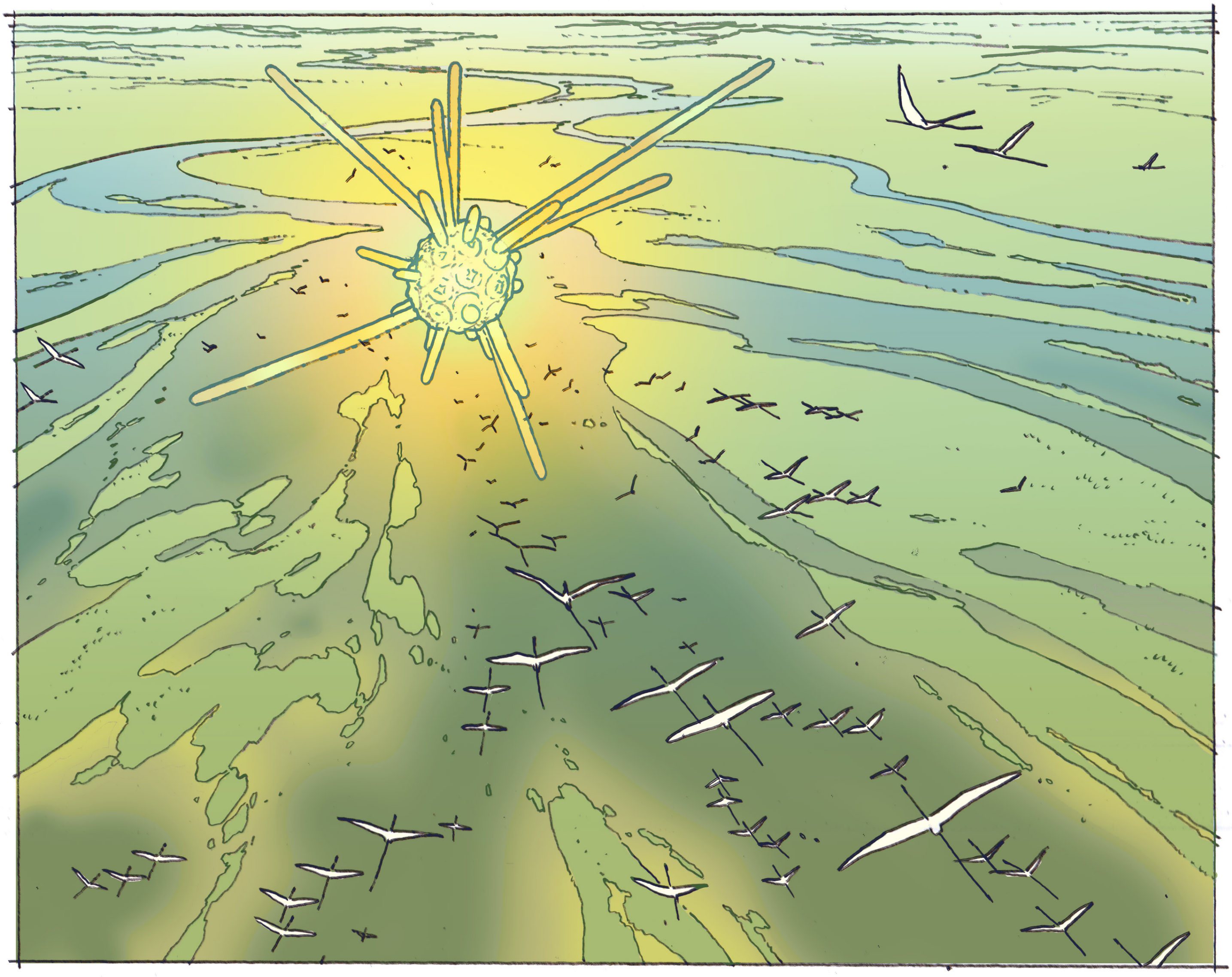


THEN ONE MORNING A YOUNG NOVICE GATHERING WATER HYSSOP NEAR ITS POND SAW IT SPREAD ITS WINGS AND FLY AWAY. AND BY THEN IT HAD GROWN A SECOND PAIR OF LEGS, SO THAT IN APPEARANCE IT INDEED RESEMBLED A SMALL DRAGON.

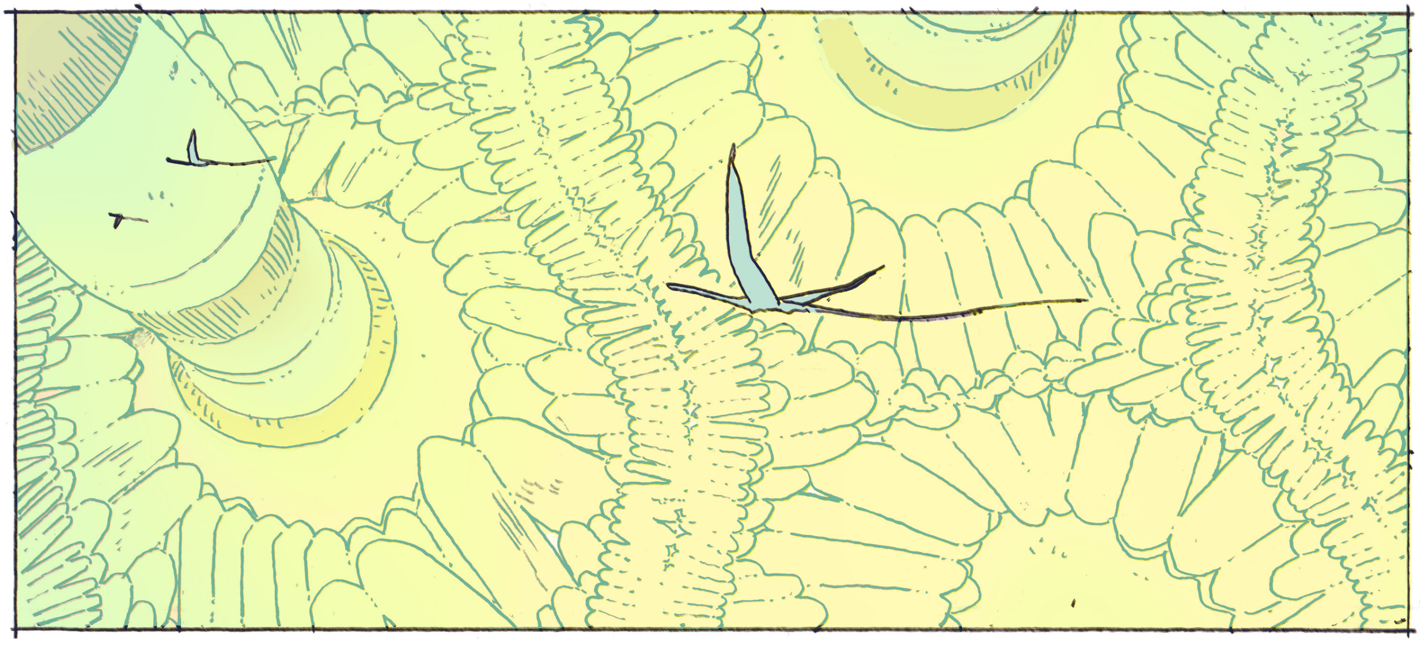



THE YOUNG DRAGON WAITS FOR THE SUN THAT THE PEOPLES OF ELSHAHWAN CALL 'NEYWRI' AND THOSE OF UMMEH CALL 'SUMHENN'. IT FEELS HER WIND IN THE AIR AS SHE APPROACHES AND READIES ITSELF:
KAAA
KHAAA
HAA! HAA!
HYYYA

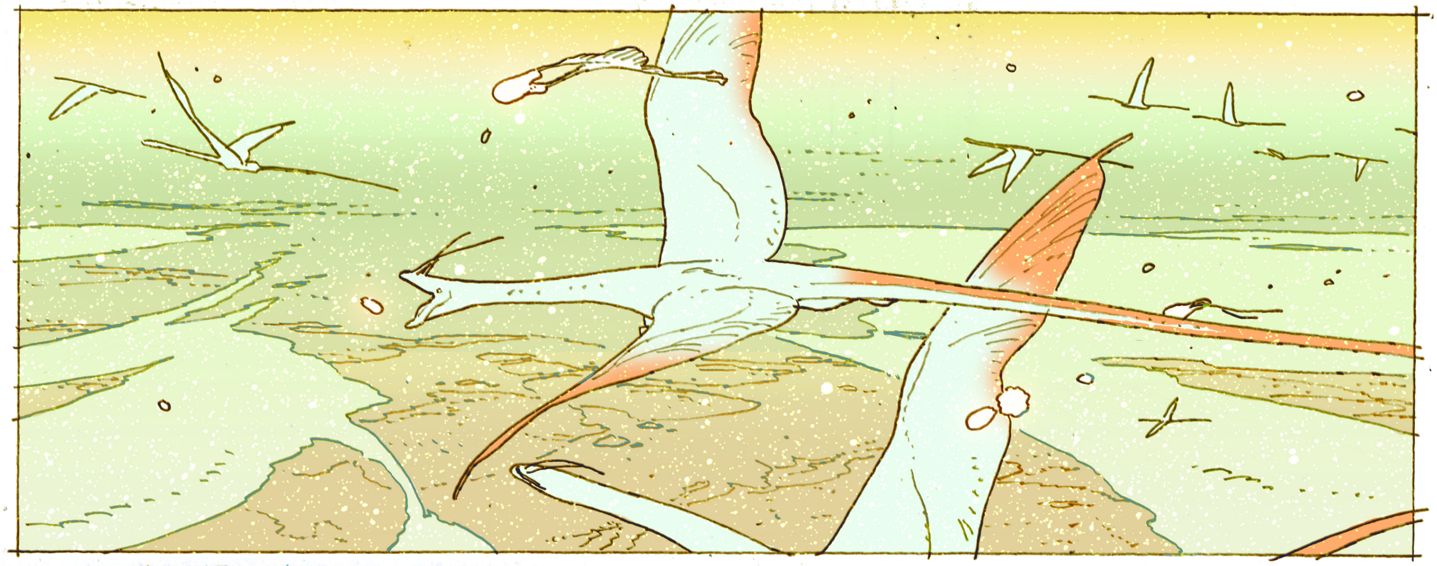
THIS DIM SUN FOLLOWS A PATH OF 850 YEARS IN OUR TIME, OR 165 YEARS IN THE TIME OF SOLMAAR.



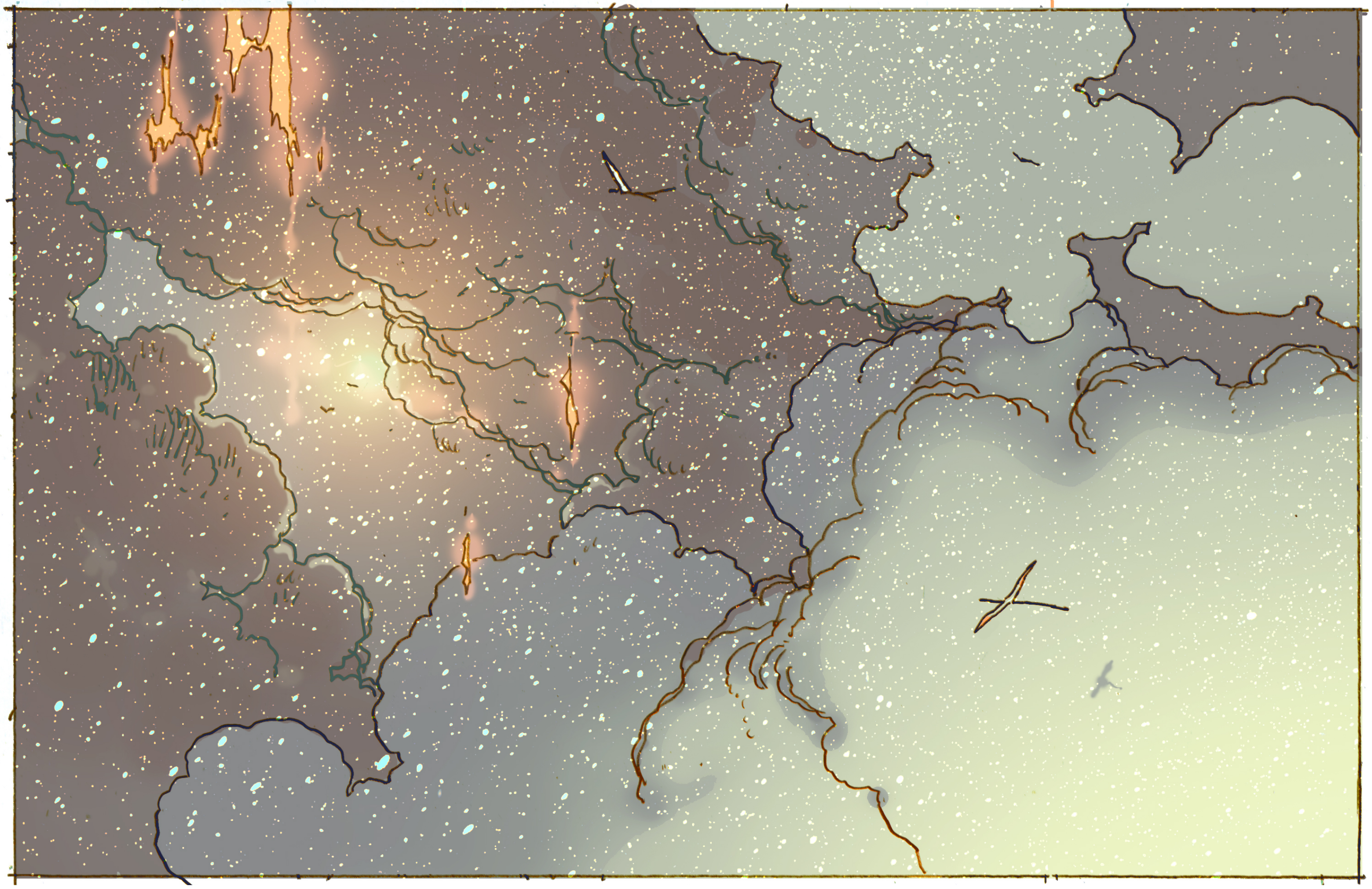
AND ON THIS PATH SHE TRAVELS FROM THOSE UPWARD TRIBUTARIES, INWARD TO THE GOLD VOLTA.

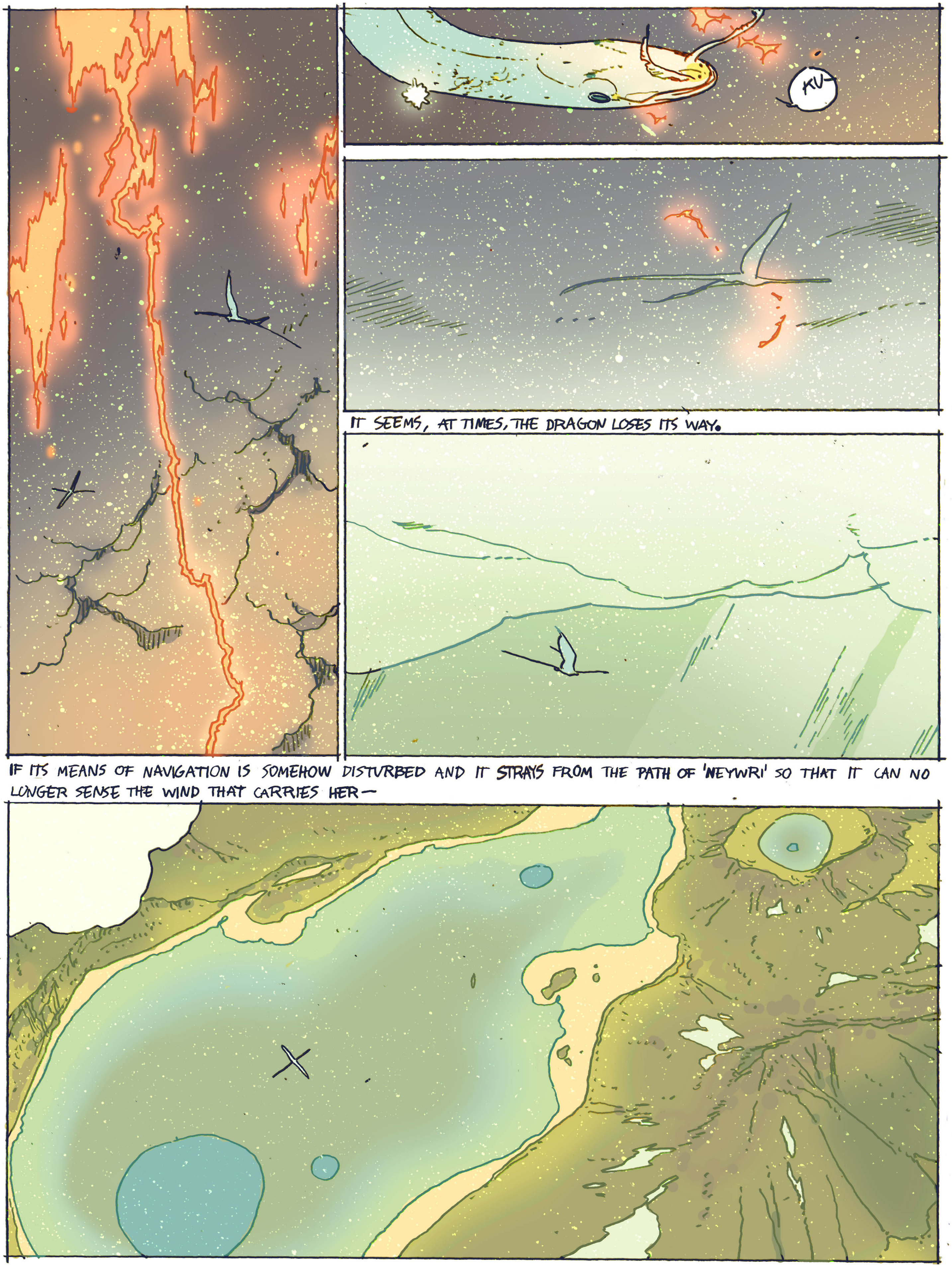


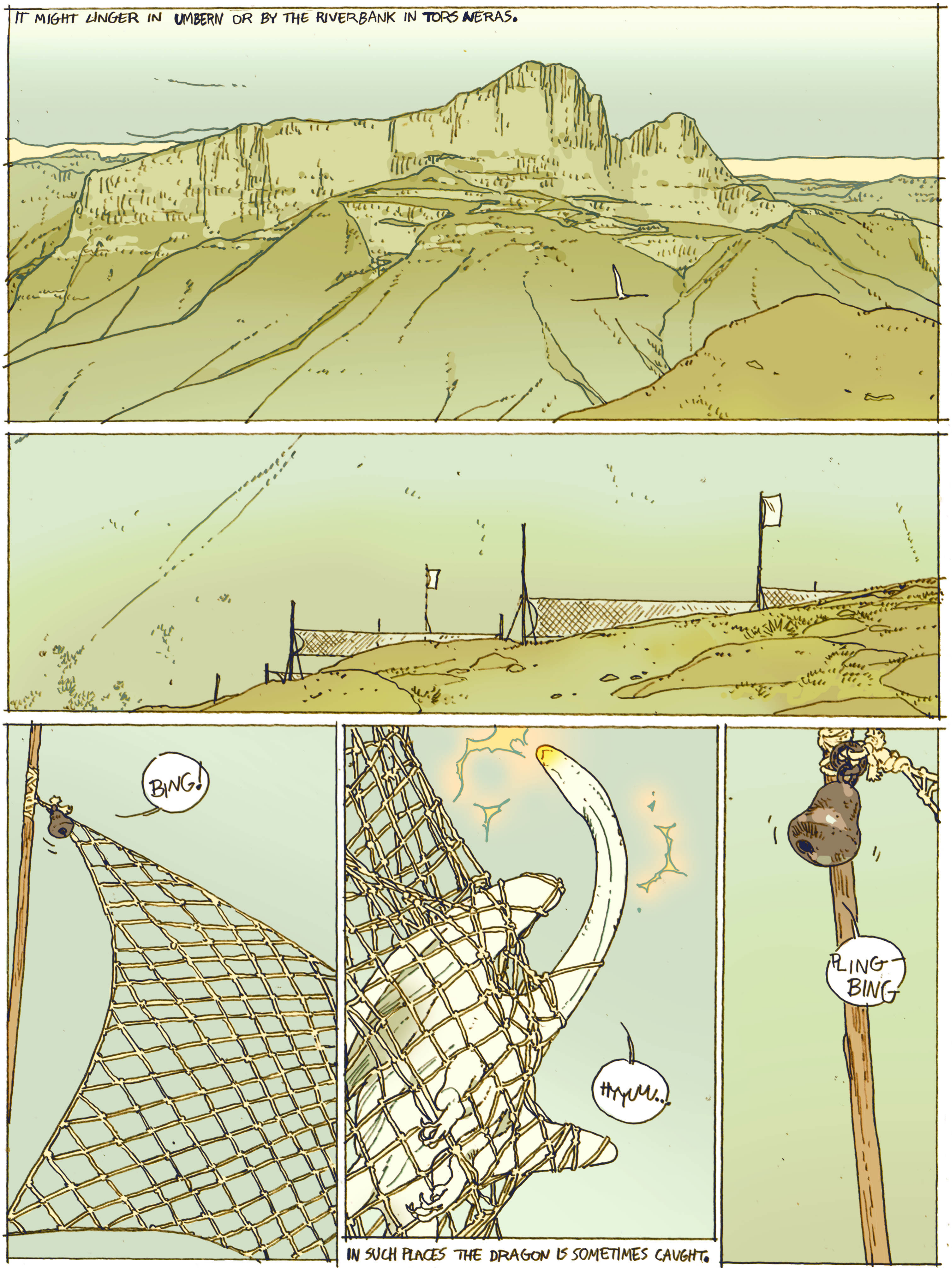
AS THIS SUN ASCENDS INTO THE HIGHER LAYERS OF THE SKIES, THE YOUNG DRAGON FOLLOWS HER. HERE IT FEEDS ON HER LIGHT OR ON STARS OR ON THE AIR ITSELF.

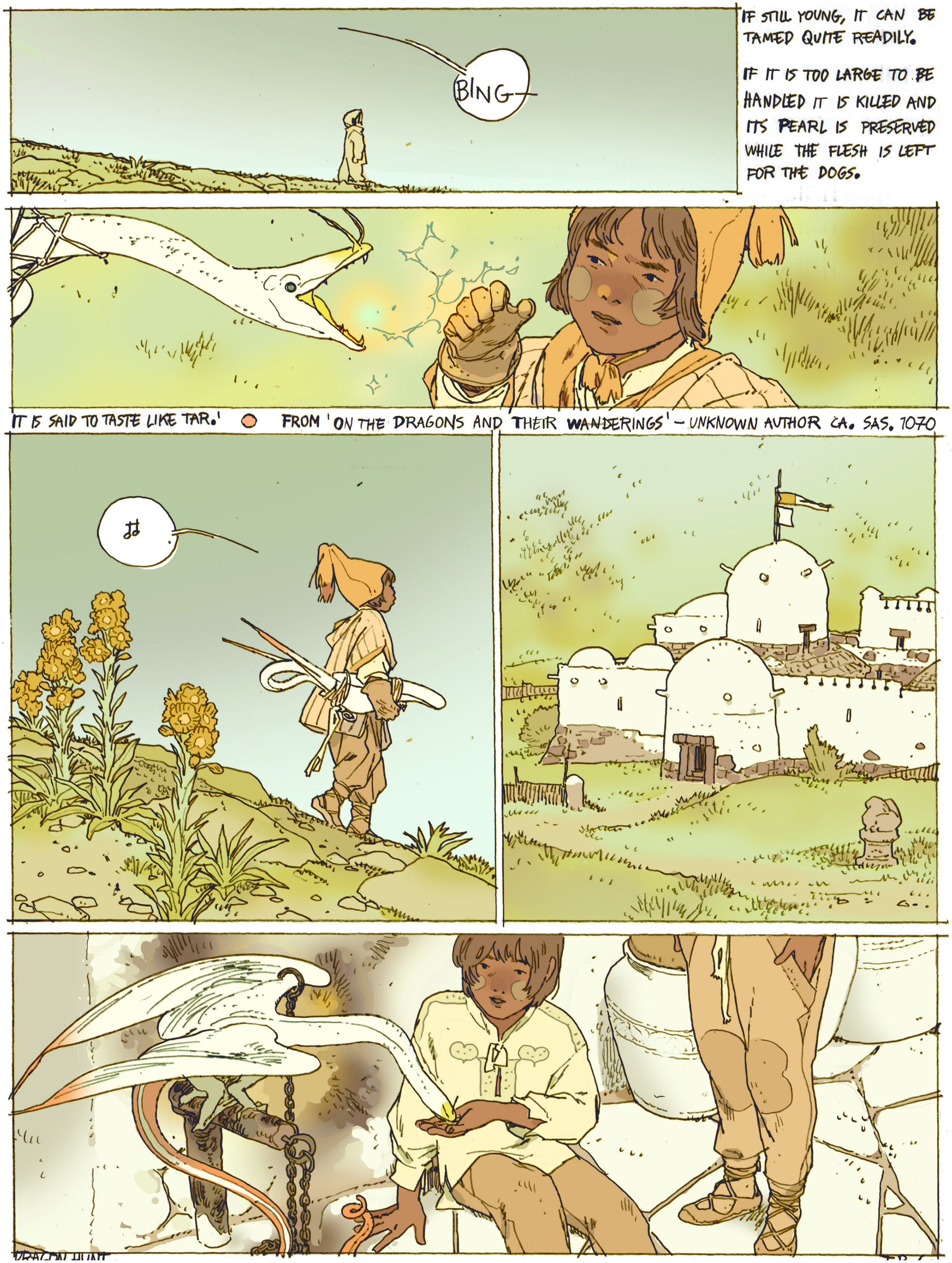


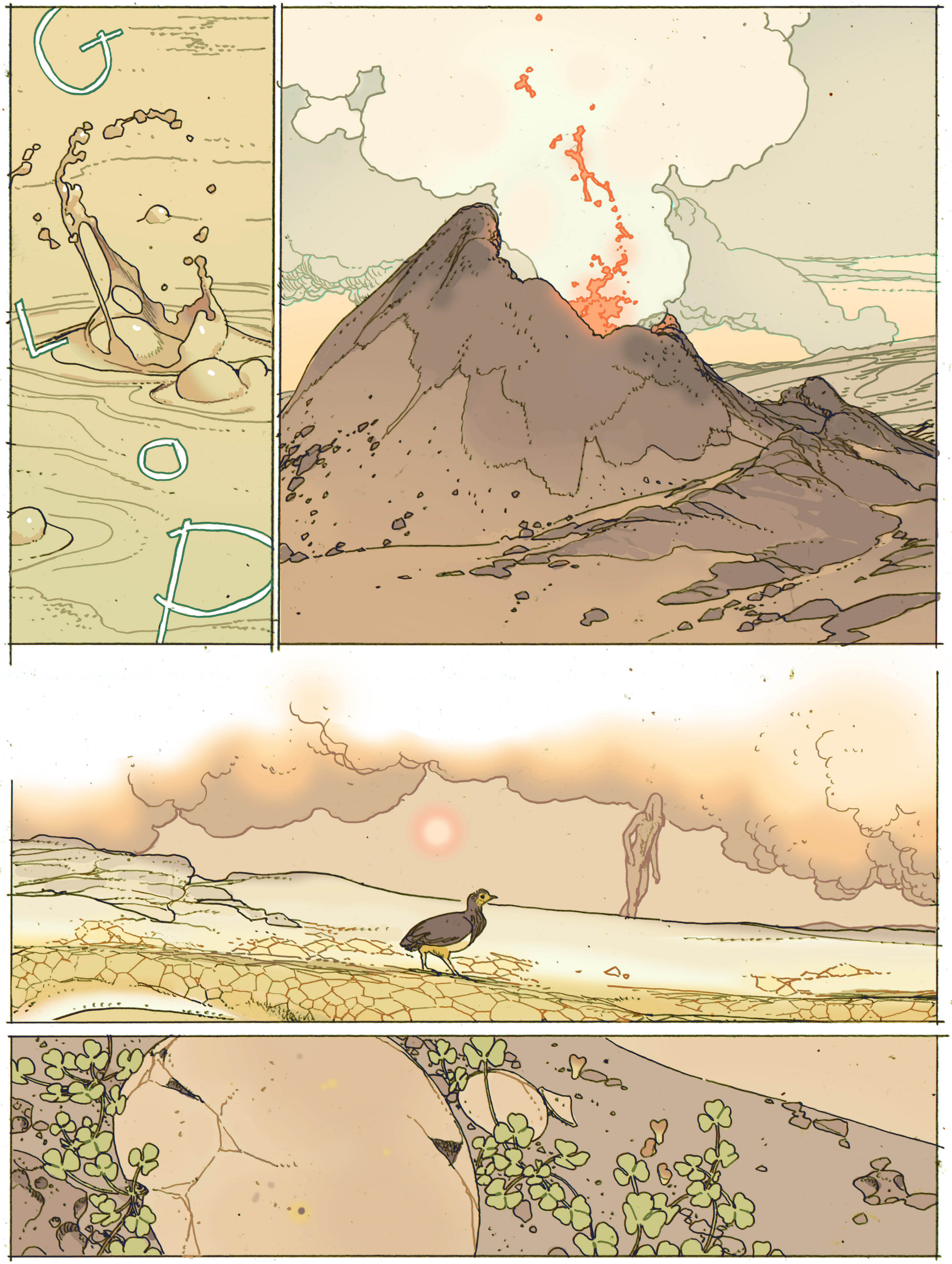
NO MAN HAS EVER TRAVELED THIS HIGH AND FEW GODS TAKE AN INTEREST IN THE SKIES.

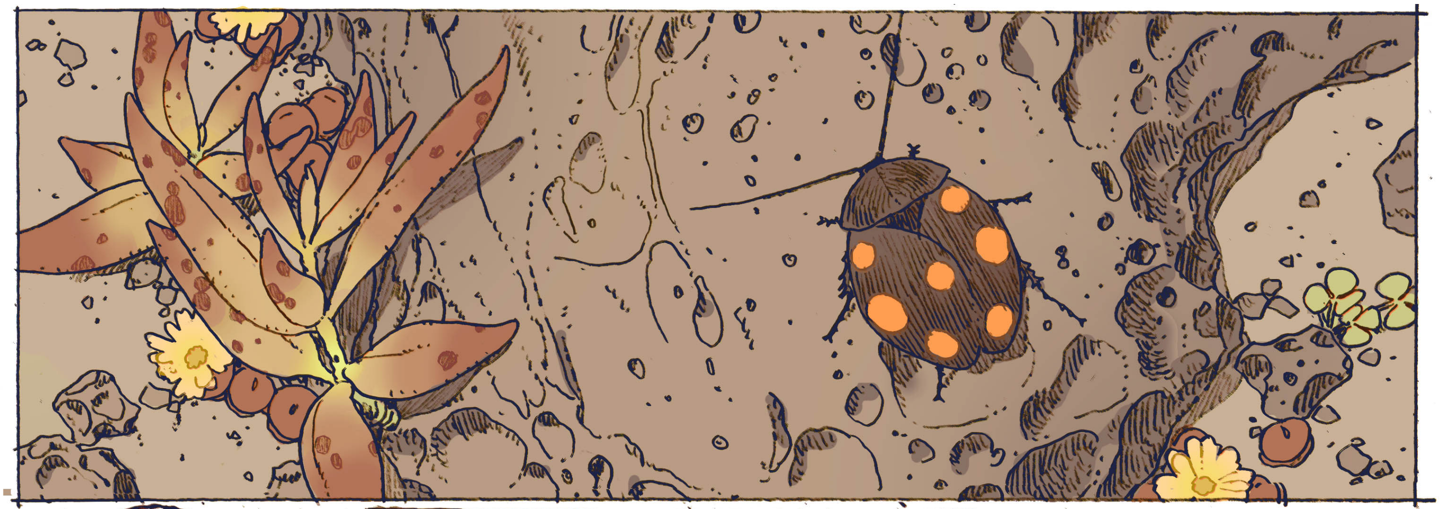



KU-
IT SEEMS, AT TIMES, THE DRAGON LOSES ITS WAY.
IF ITS MEANS OF NAVIGATION IS SOMEHOW DISTURBED AND IT STRAYS FROM THE PATH OF 'NEYWRI' SO THAT IT CAN NO LONGER SENSE THE WIND THAT CARRIES HER—


IT MIGHT LINGER IN UMBERN OR BY THE RIVERBANK IN TORS NERAS.
BING!
HYUM...
IN SUCH PLACES THE DRAGON IS SOMETIMES CAUGHT.
PLING BING


IF STILL YOUNG, IT CAN BE TAMED QUITE READILY.
IF IT IS TOO LARGE TO BE HANDLED IT IS KILLED AND ITS PEARL IS PRESERVED WHILE THE FLESH IS LEFT FOR THE DOGS.
BING
IT IS SAID TO TASTE LIKE TAR.'
FROM 'ON THE DRAGONS AND THEIR WANDERINGS' - UNKNOWN AUTHOR CA. SAS. 1070
♫


GLOP

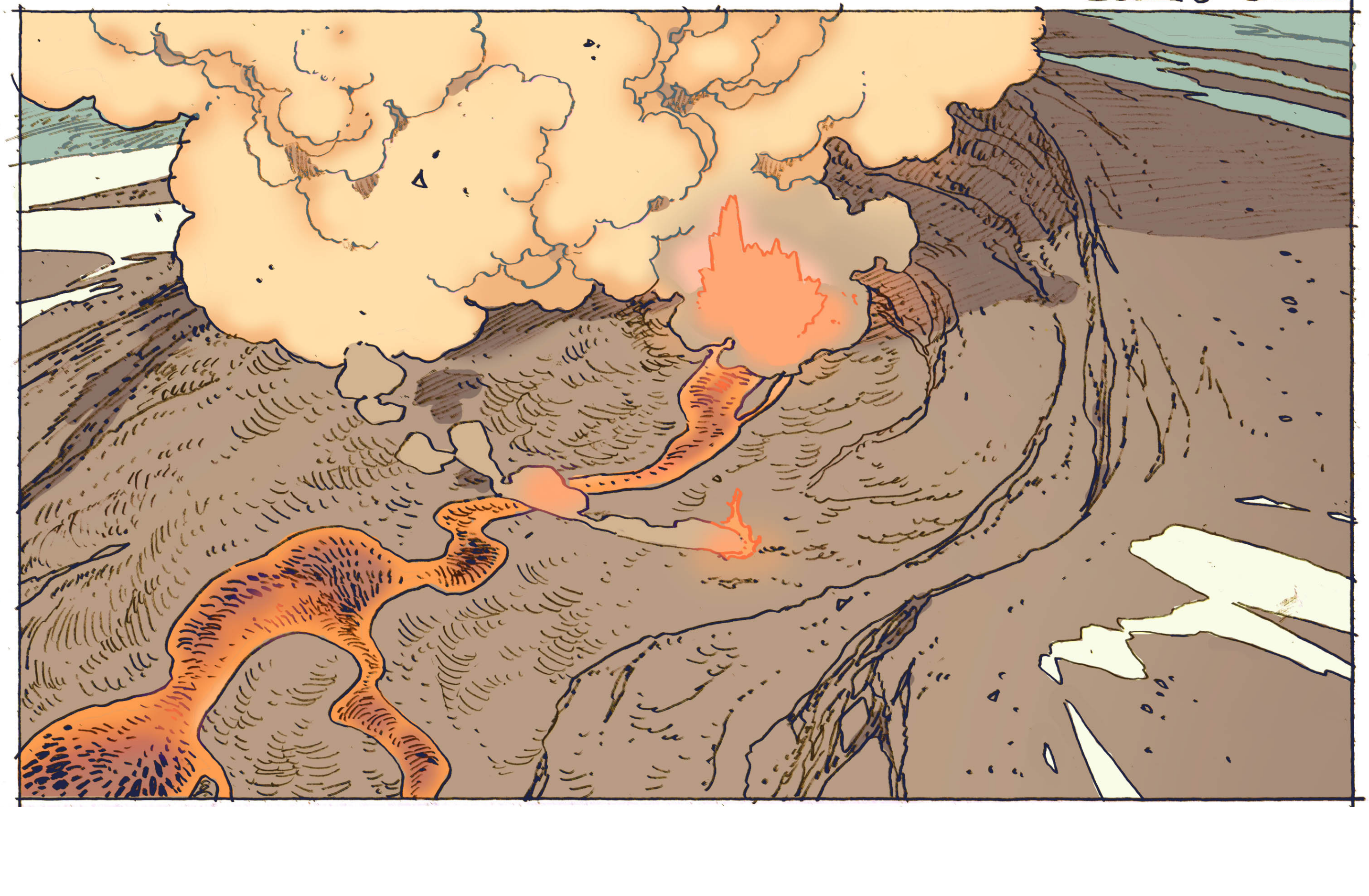


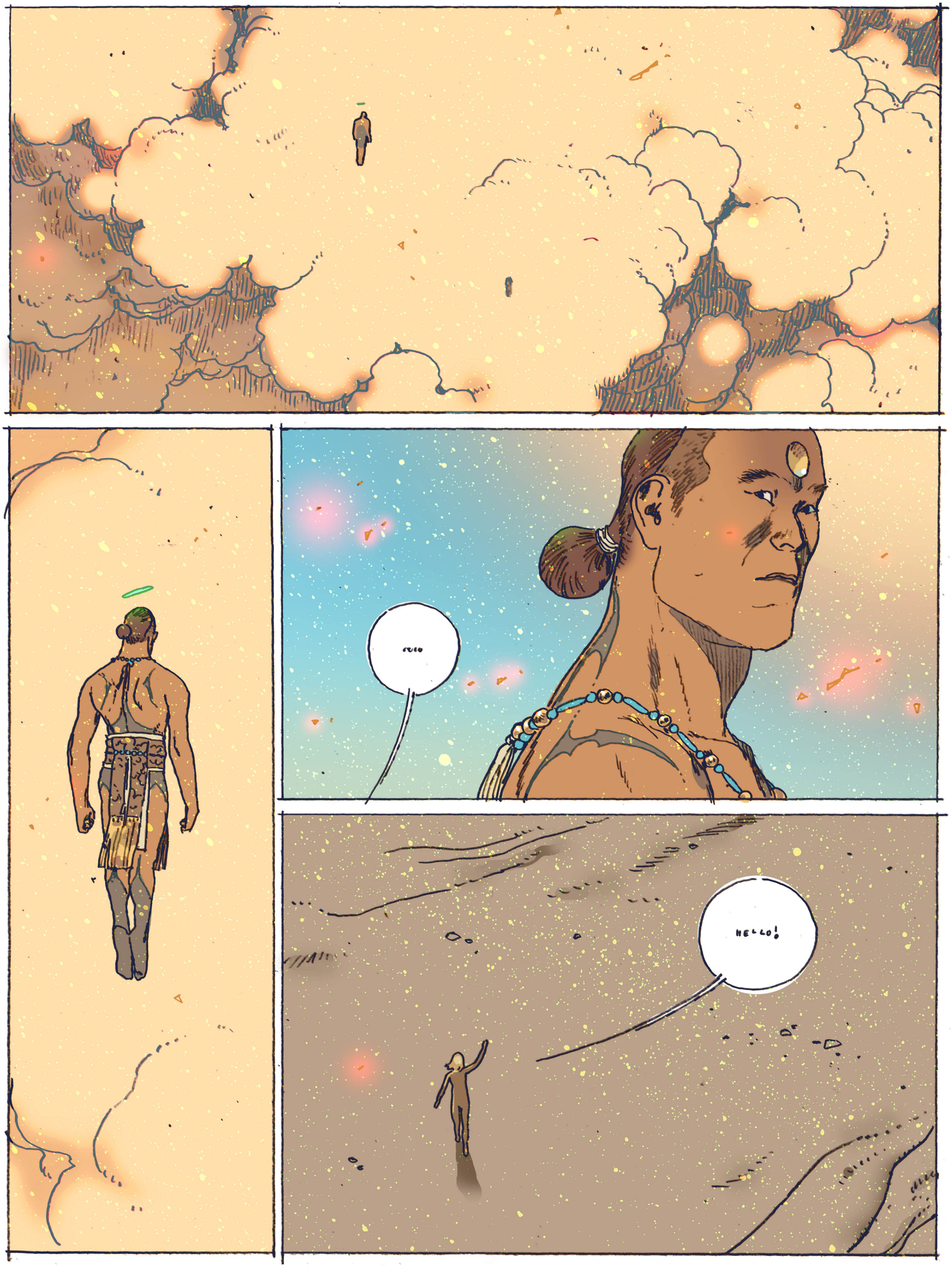
A GARDEN OF SPHERES

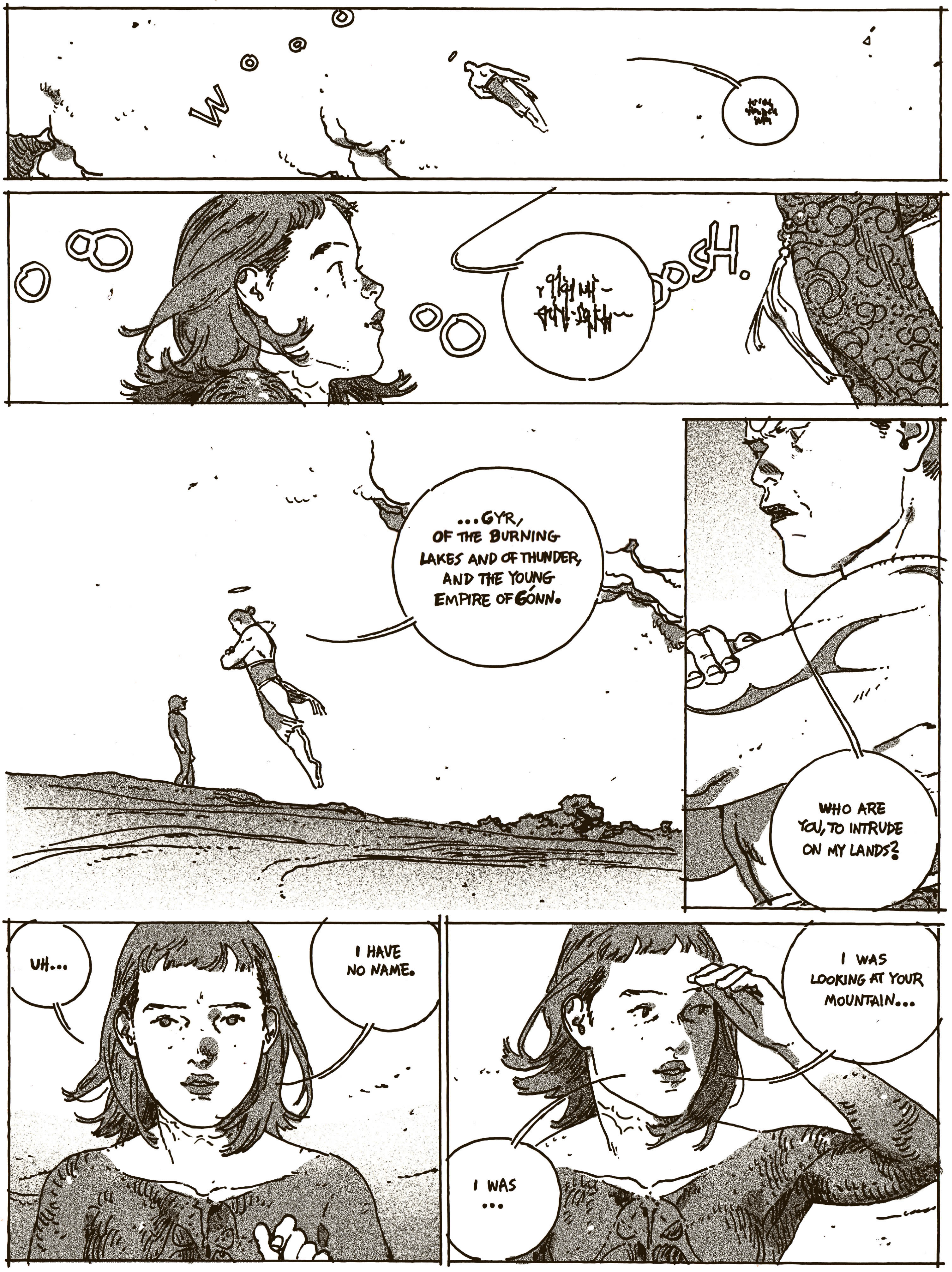
YOUNG EMPIRE OF GÓNN • LOCAL YEAR 4066

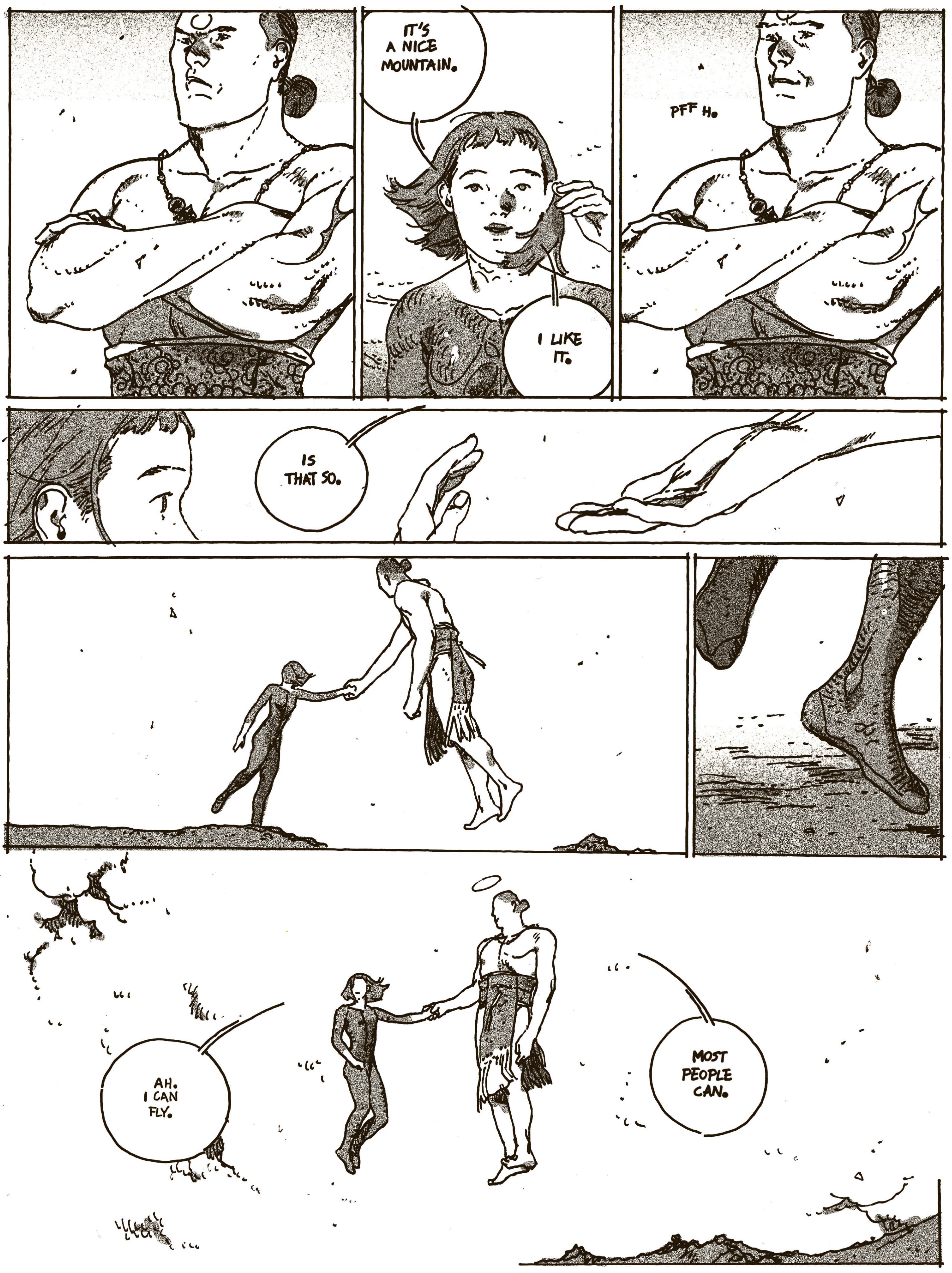
SOLMAAR STANDARD YEAR — 841

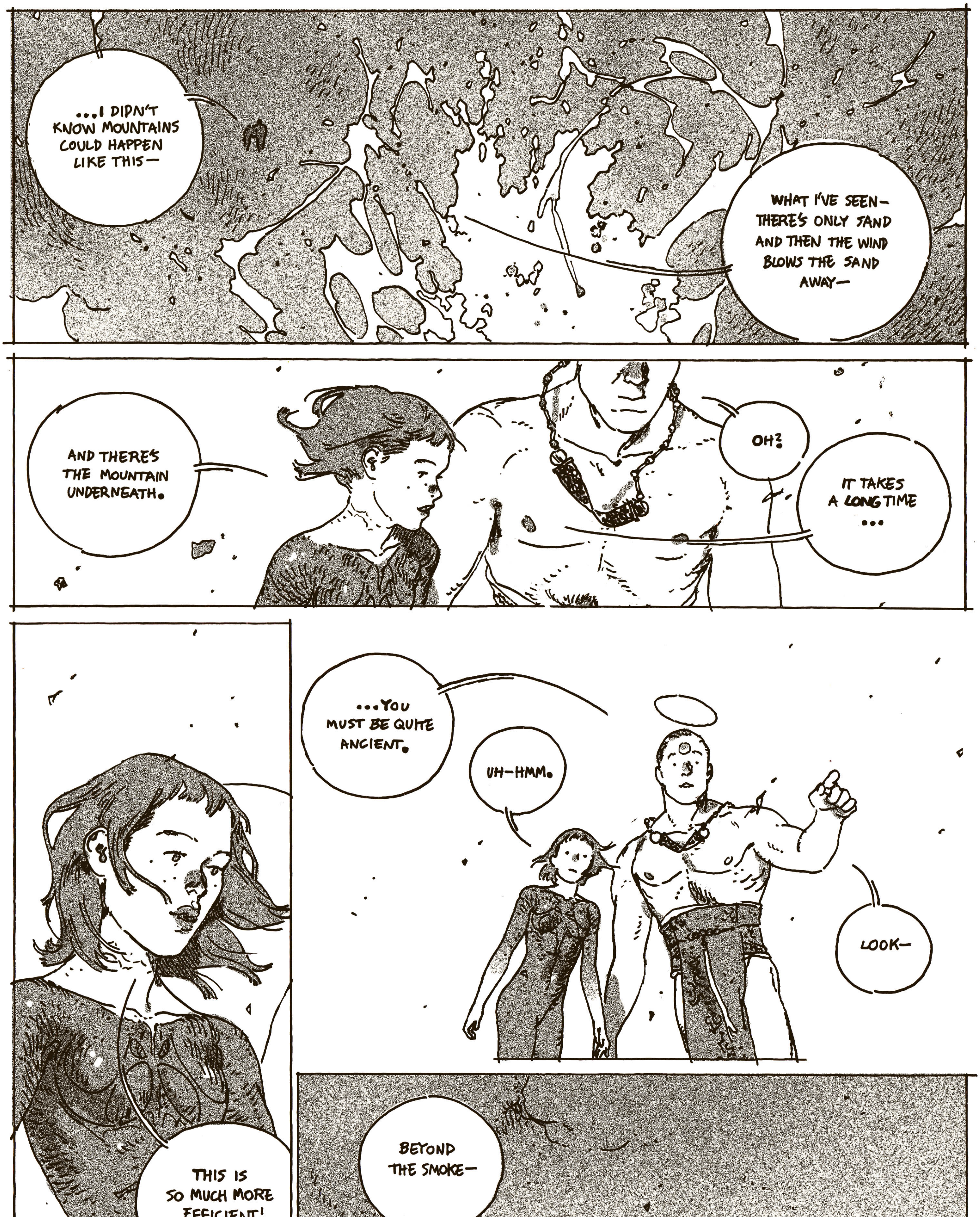
02 . 02



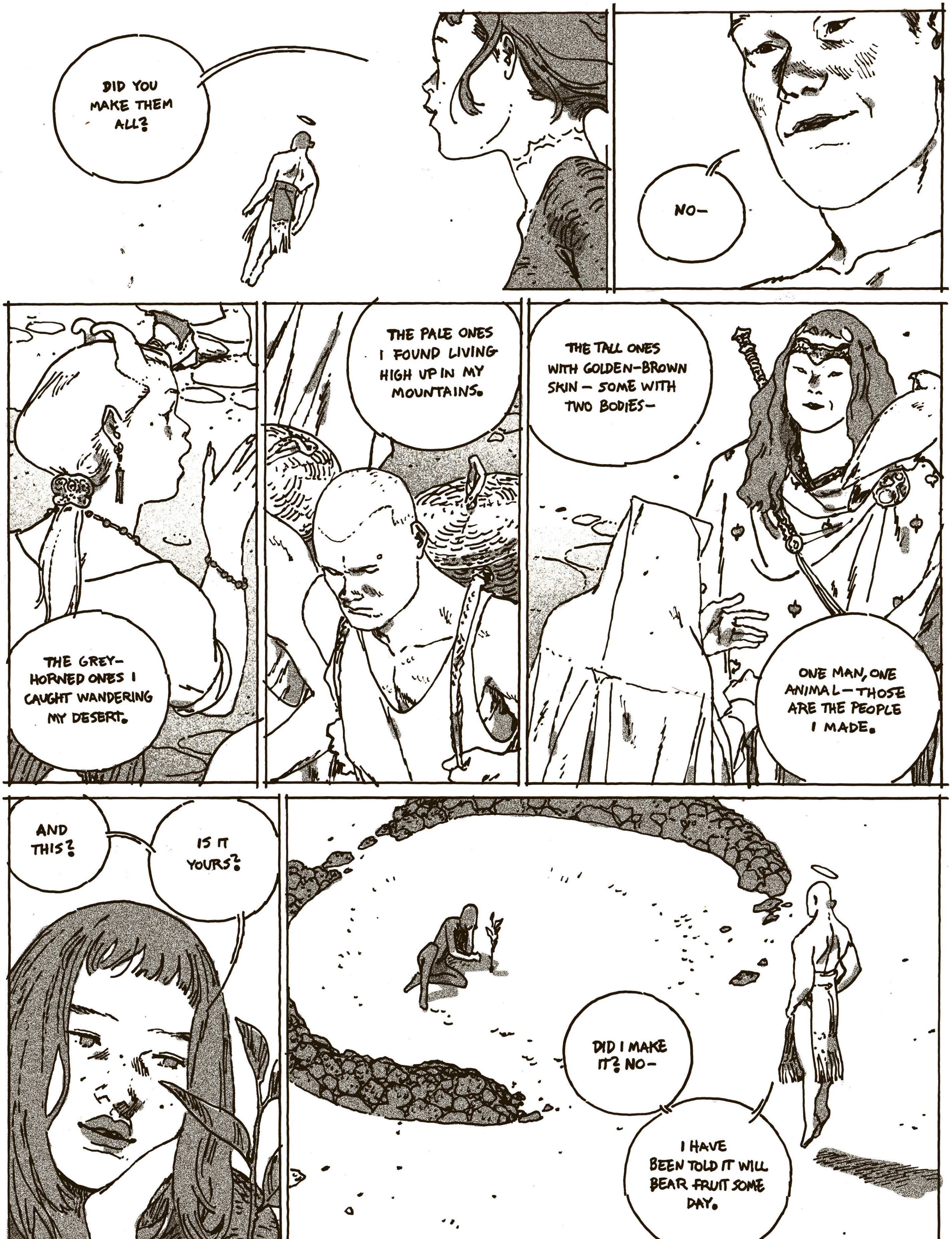

HELLO!

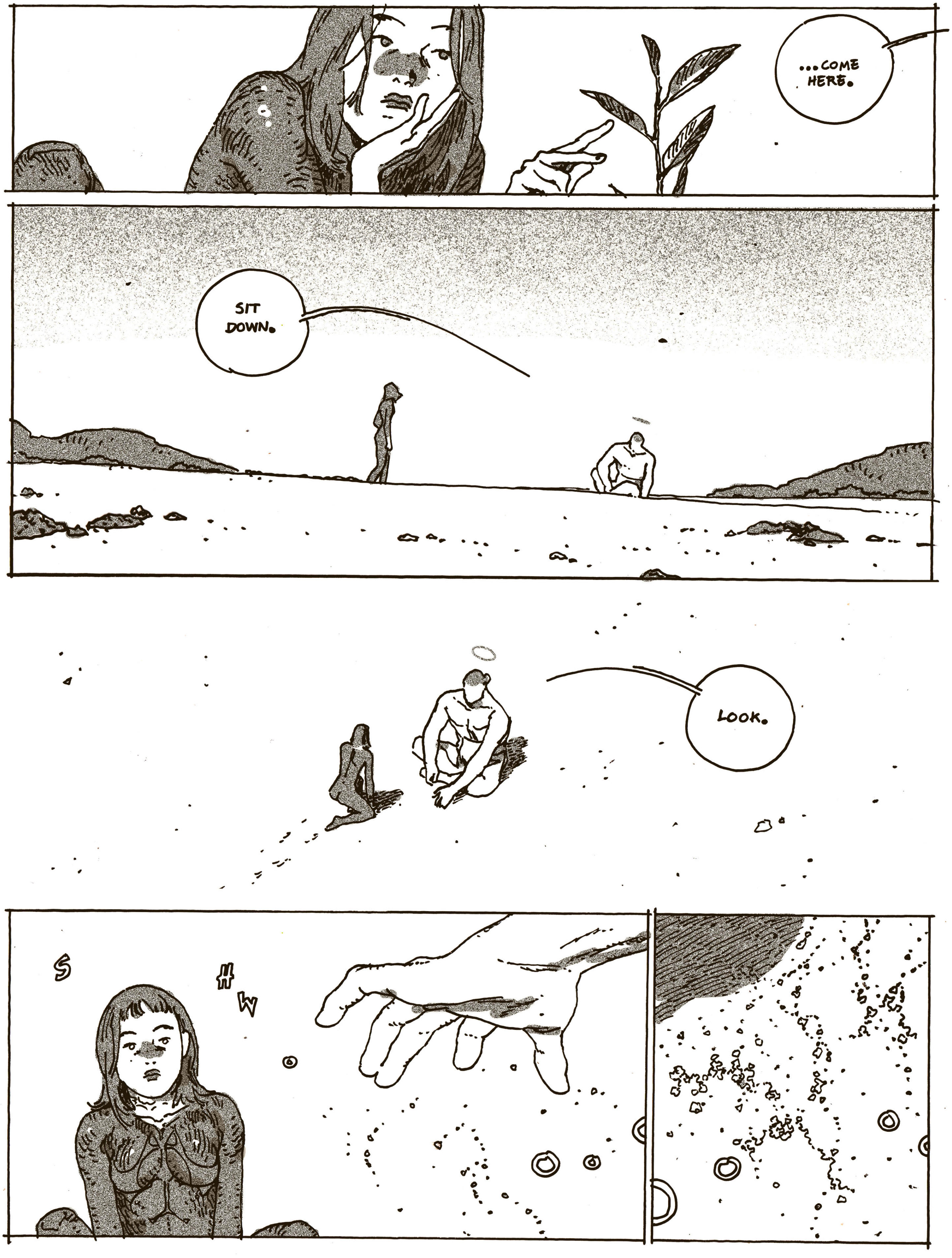

...GYR, OF THE BURNING LAKES AND OF THUNDER, AND THE YOUNG EMPIRE OF GÓNN.
WHO ARE YOU, TO INTRUDE ON MY LANDS?
UH...
I HAVE NO NAME.
I WAS LOOKING AT YOUR MOUNTAIN...
I WAS ...

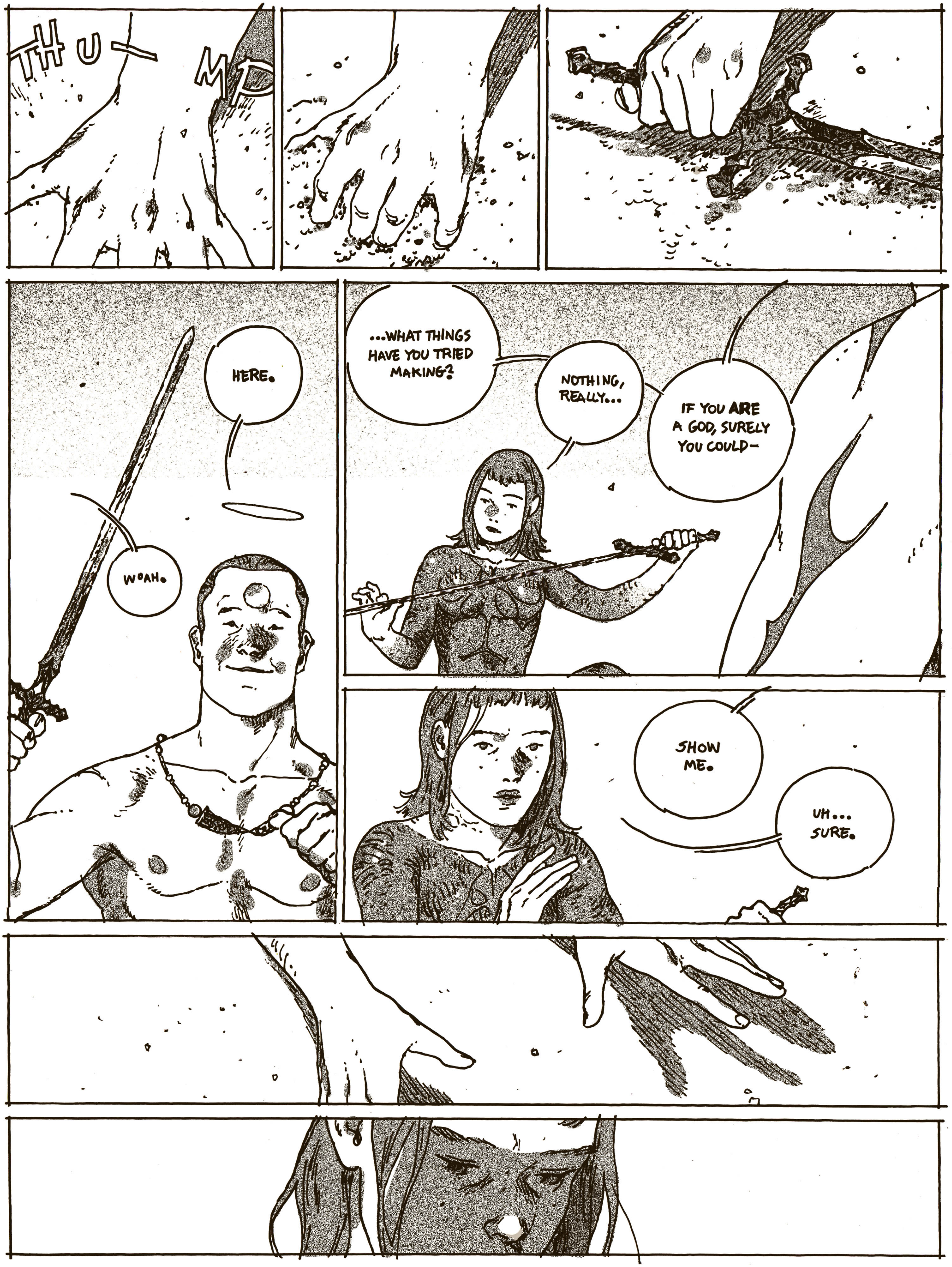

IT'S A NICE MOUNTAIN.
I LIKE IT.
PFF H.
IS THAT SO.
AH. I CAN FLY.
MOST PEOPLE CAN.

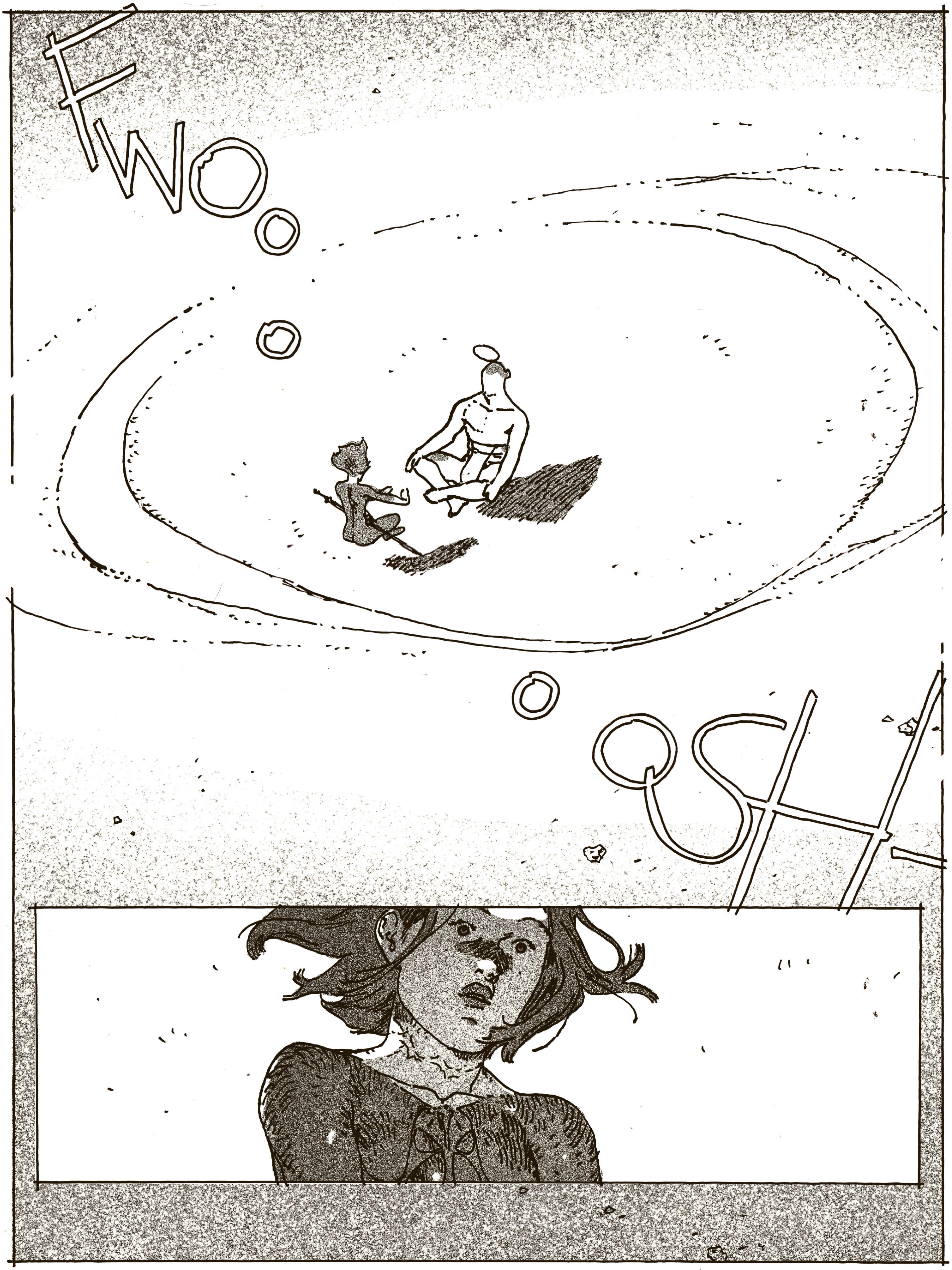

...I DIDN'T KNOW MOUNTAINS COULD HAPPEN LIKE THIS—
WHAT I'VE SEEN— THERE'S ONLY SAND AND THEN THE WIND BLOWS THE SAND AWAY—
AND THERE'S THE MOUNTAIN UNDERNEATH.
OH?
IT TAKES A LONG TIME...
THIS IS SO MUCH MORE EFFICIENT!
...YOU MUST BE QUITE ANCIENT.
UH-HMM.
LOOK—
BEYOND THE SMOKE—

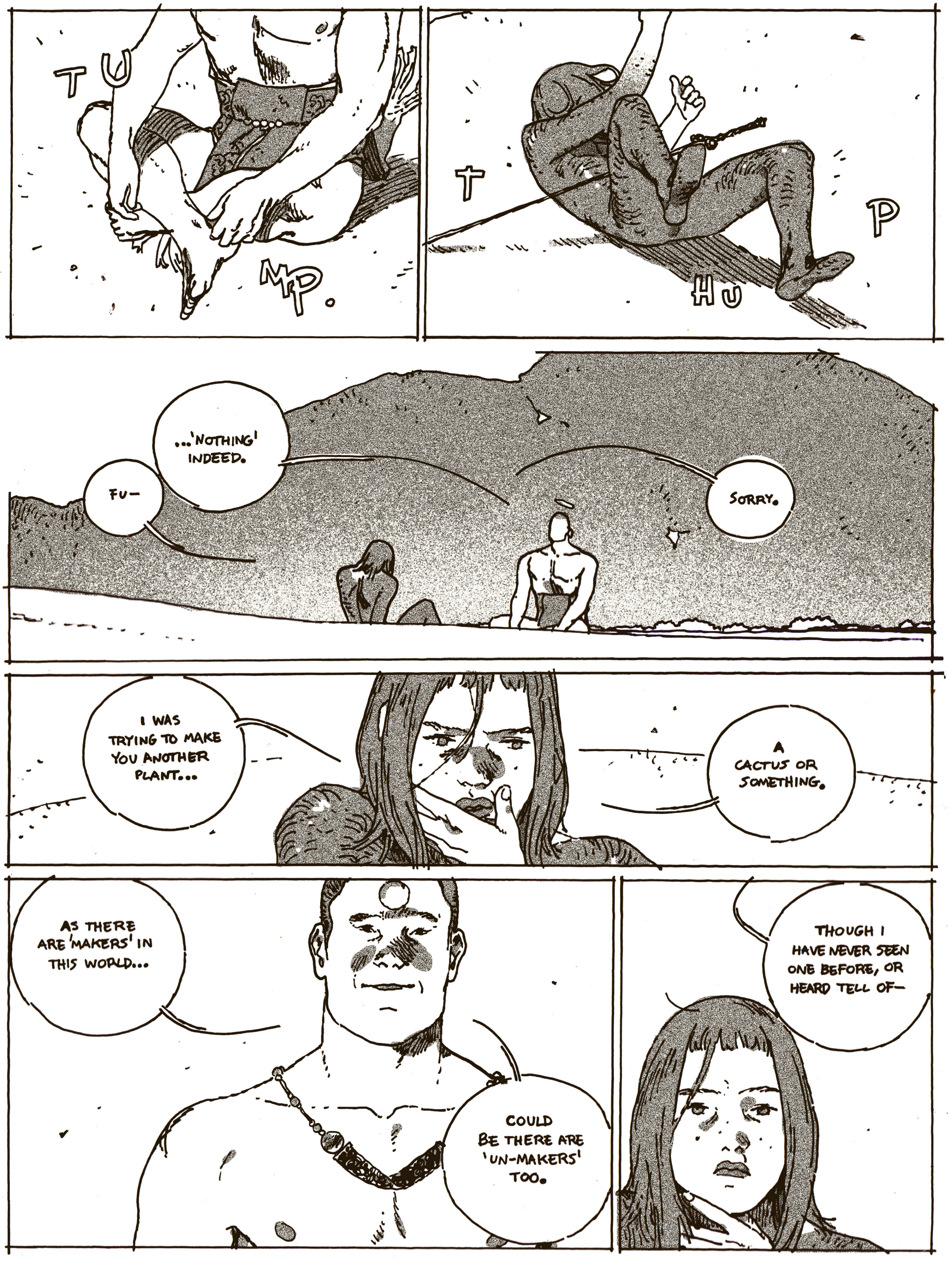
MY CITY.
ALL THESE PEOPLE...

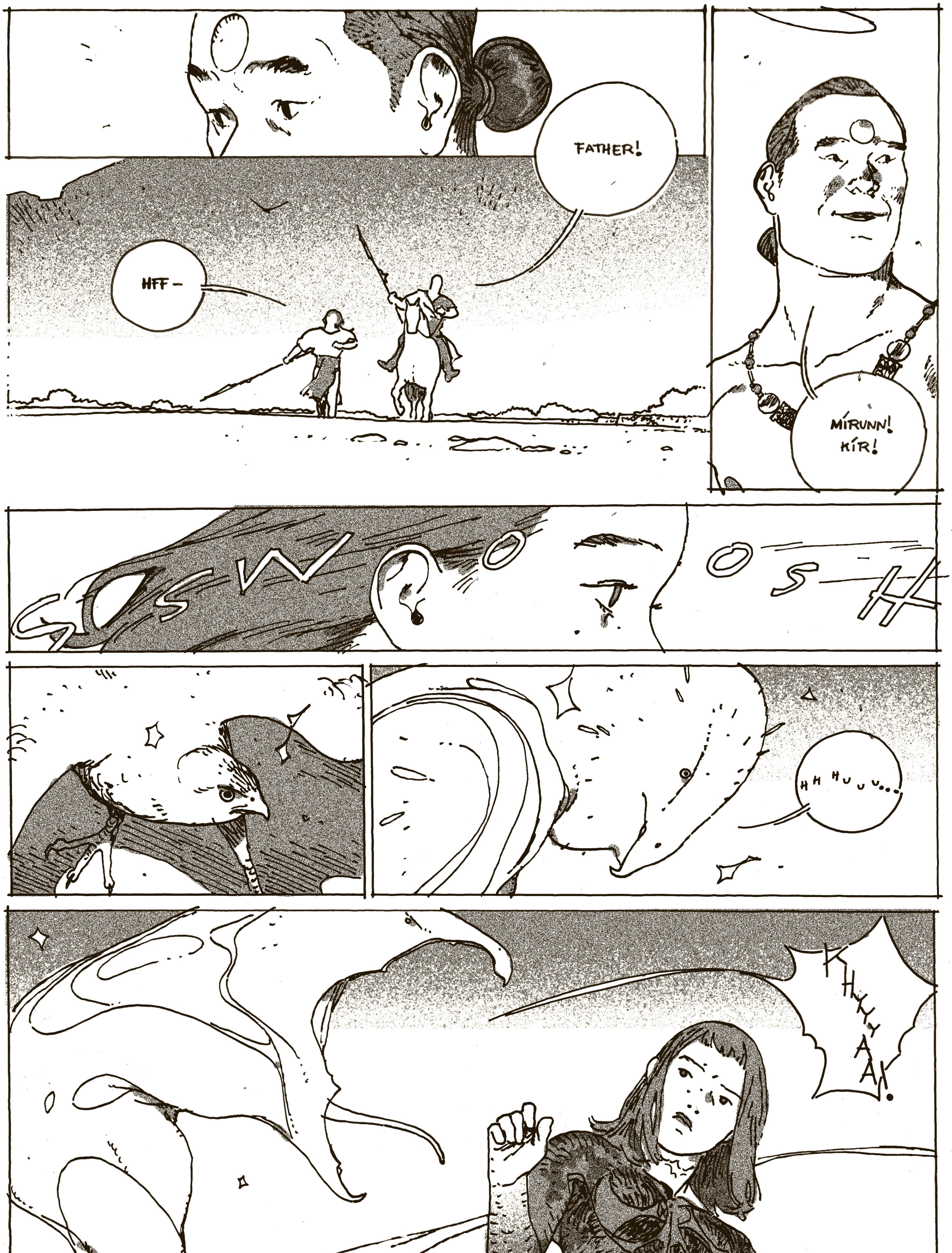

DID YOU MAKE THEM ALL?
NO-
THE GREY-HORNED ONES I CAUGHT WANDERING MY DESERT.
THE PALE ONES I FOUND LIVING HIGH UP IN MY MOUNTAINS.
THE TALL ONES WITH GOLDEN-BROWN SKIN - SOME WITH TWO BODIES-
ONE MAN, ONE ANIMAL- THOSE ARE THE PEOPLE I MADE.
AND THIS?
IS IT YOURS?
DID I MAKE IT? NO-
I HAVE BEEN TOLD IT WILL BEAR FRUIT SOME DAY.


...COME HERE.
SIT DOWN.
LOOK.
S H W

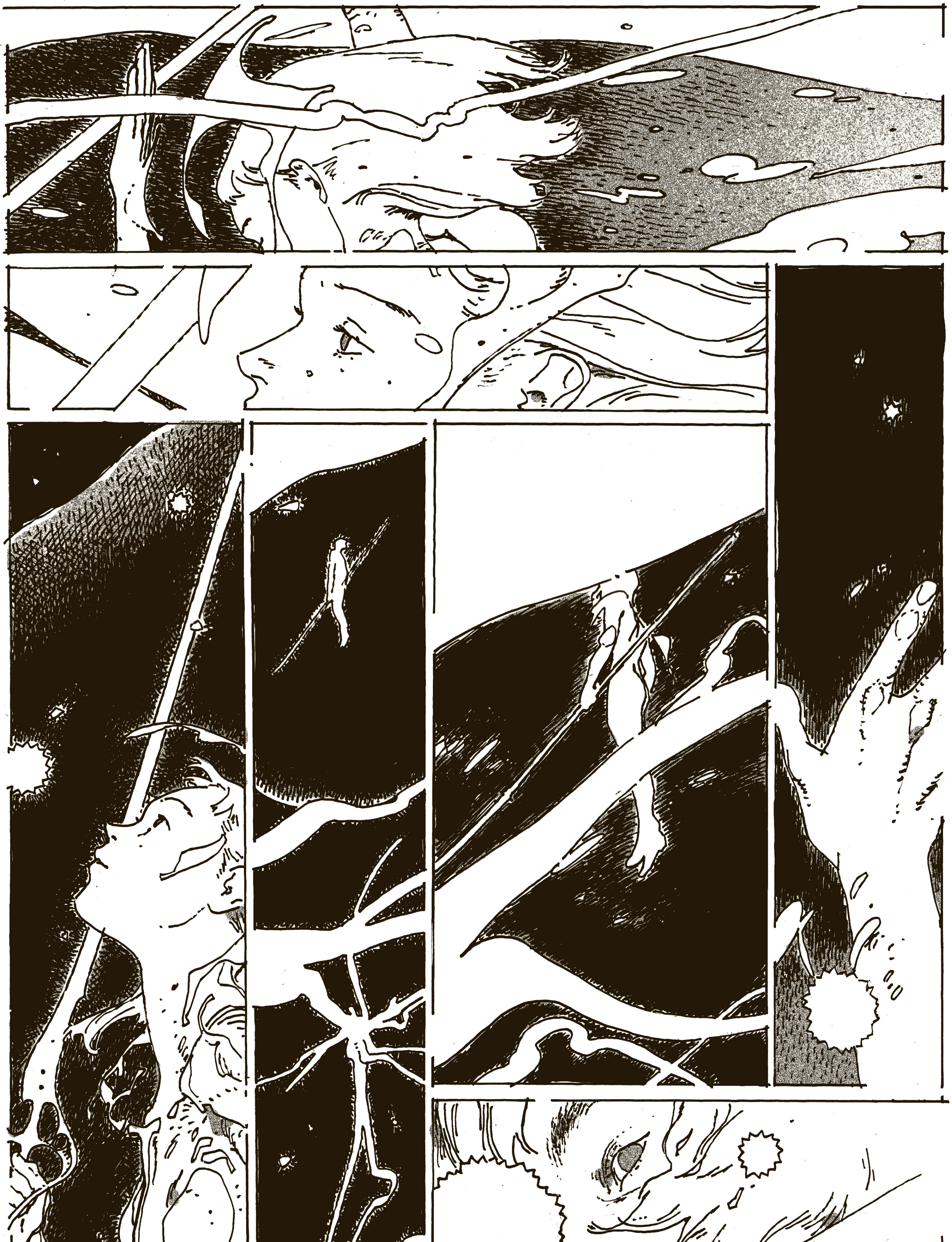

THUMP
HERE.
WOAH.
...WHAT THINGS HAVE YOU TRIED MAKING?
NOTHING, REALLY...
IF YOU ARE A GOD, SURELY YOU COULD-
SHOW ME.
UH... SURE.

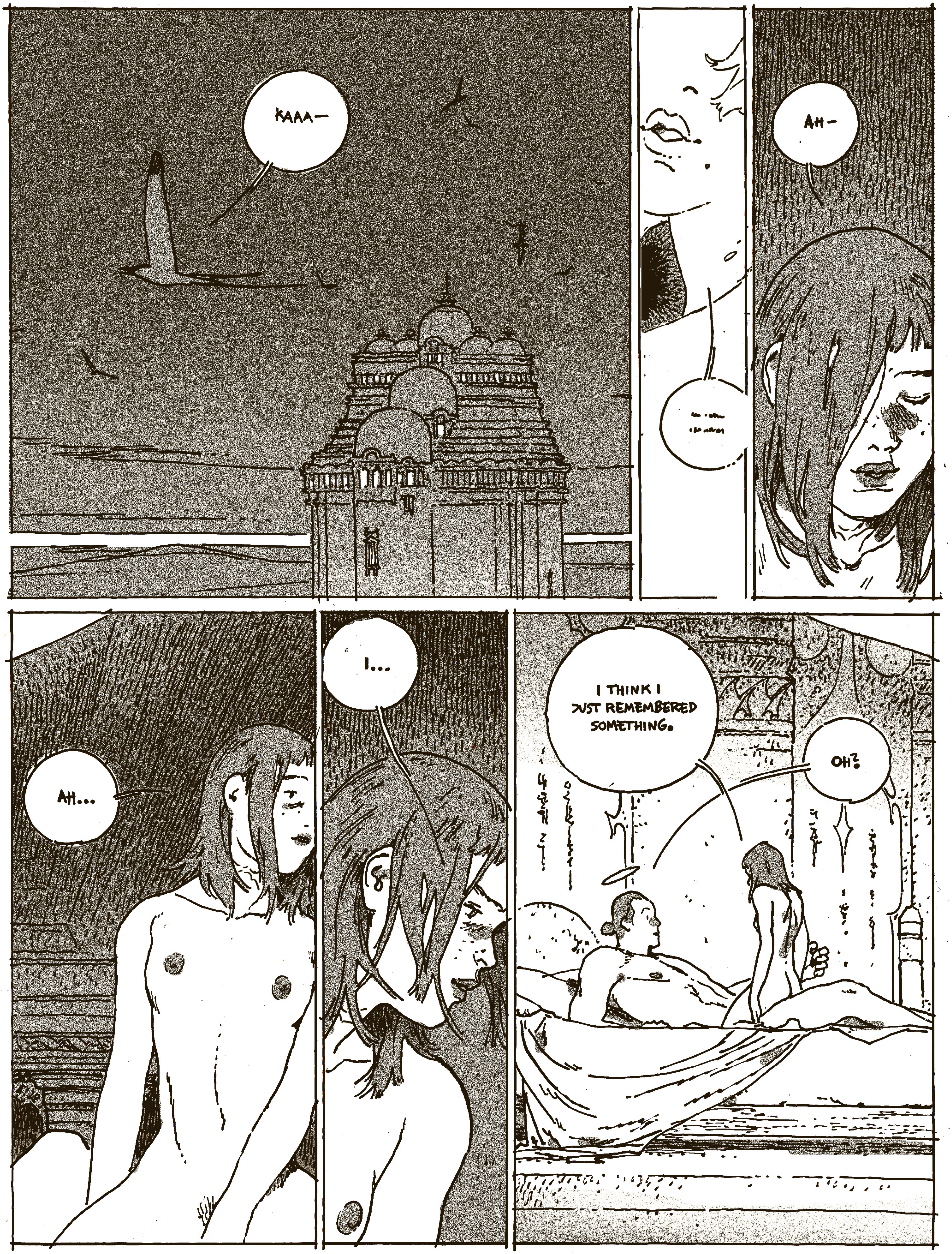

FWOOOOOSH

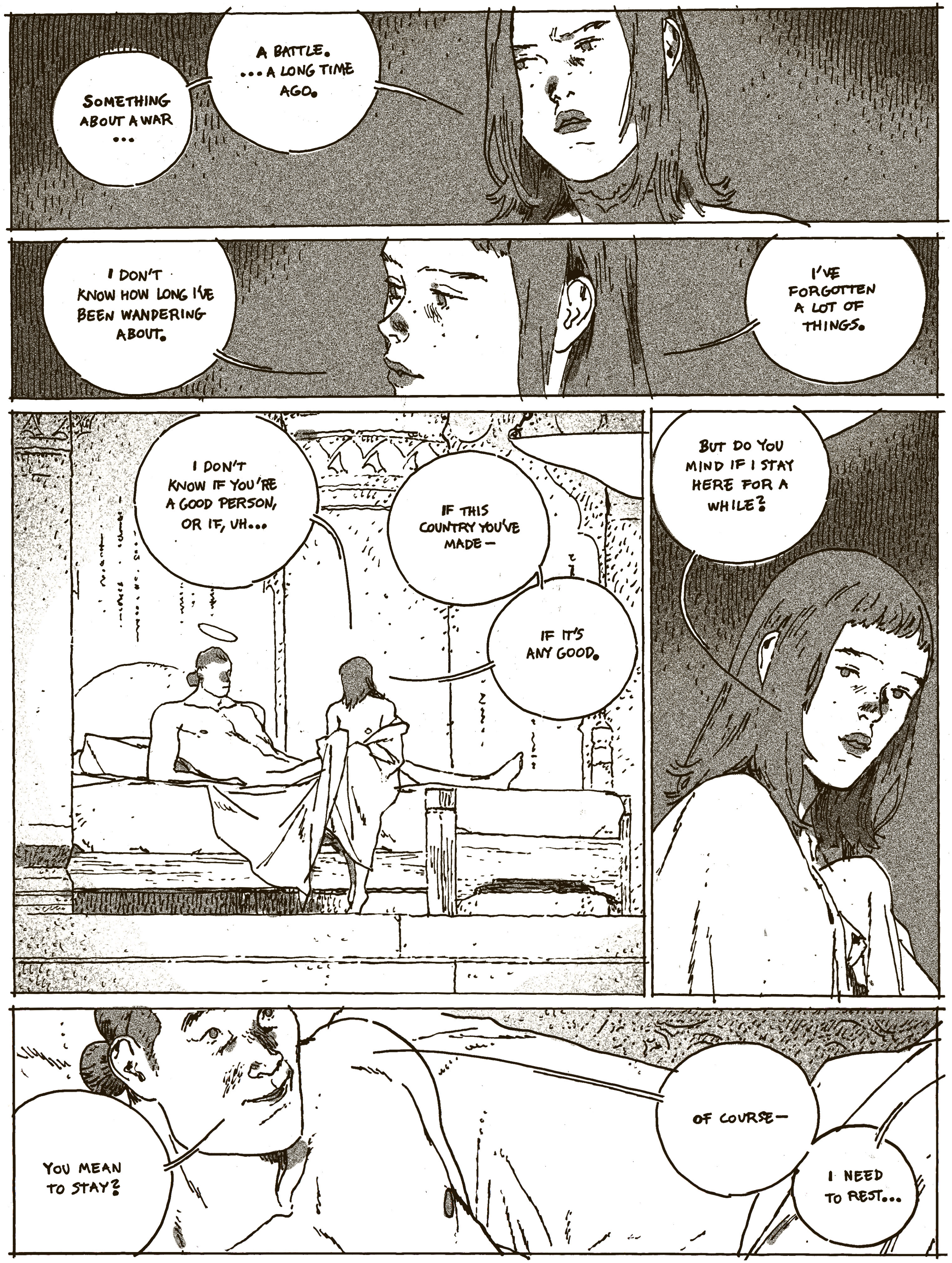

TU
MP.
T
HU
P
FU—
...'NOTHING' INDEED.
SORRY.
I WAS TRYING TO MAKE YOU ANOTHER PLANT...
A CACTUS OR SOMETHING.
AS THERE ARE 'MAKERS' IN THIS WORLD...
COULD BE THERE ARE 'UN-MAKERS' TOO.
THOUGH I HAVE NEVER SEEN ONE BEFORE, OR HEARD TELL OF—

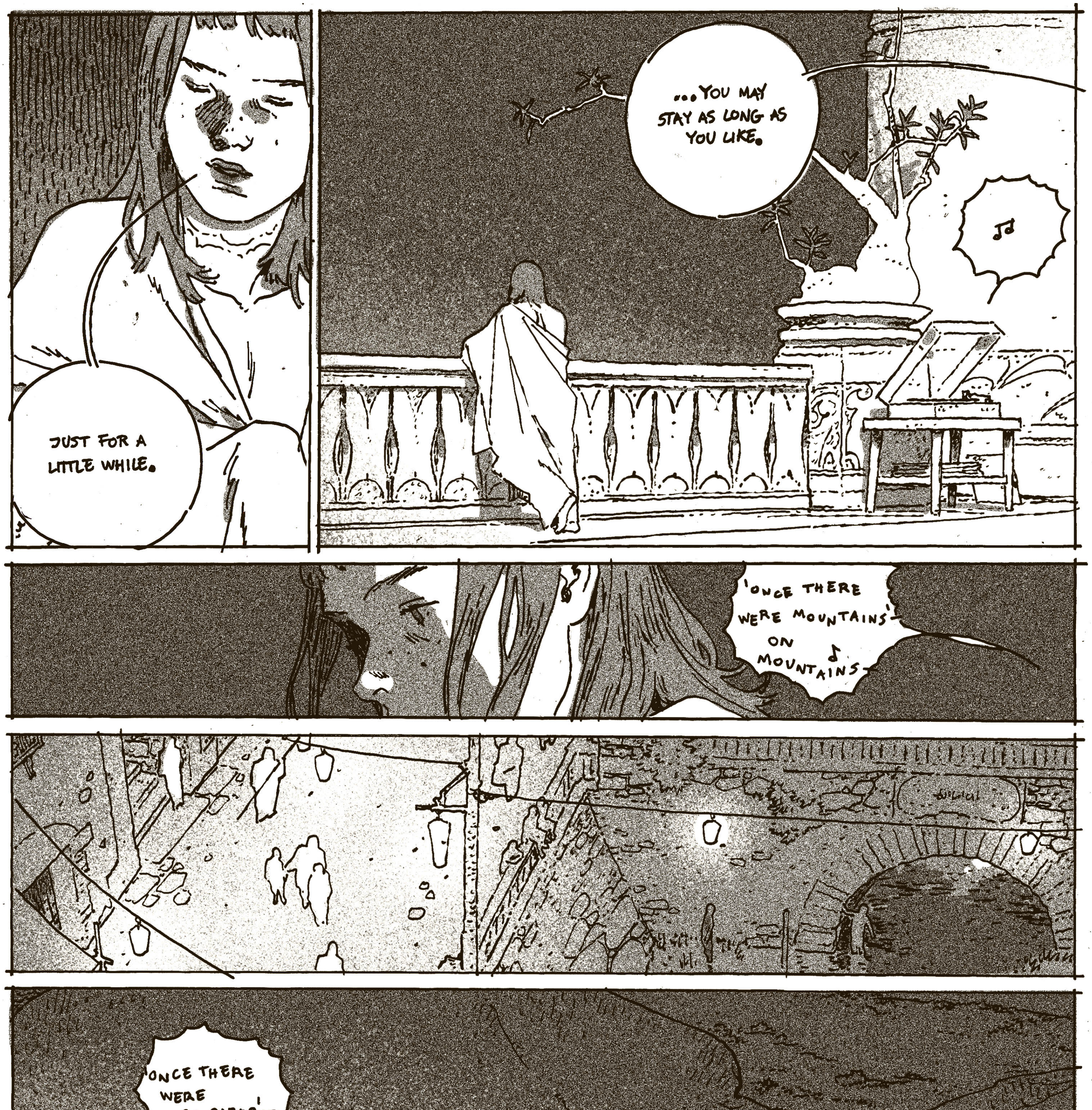

FATHER!
HFF-
MÍRUNN! KÍR!
GSWOOSH
HH HUUU...
KHHHAA!

WHAT IS THAT POWER? HFF-DID SHE THREATEN YOU?
WH—
STAND DOWN, MY SONS—
I FOUND HER ADMIRING MY MOUNTAINS. SEE—
AN IMMORTAL WOMAN!



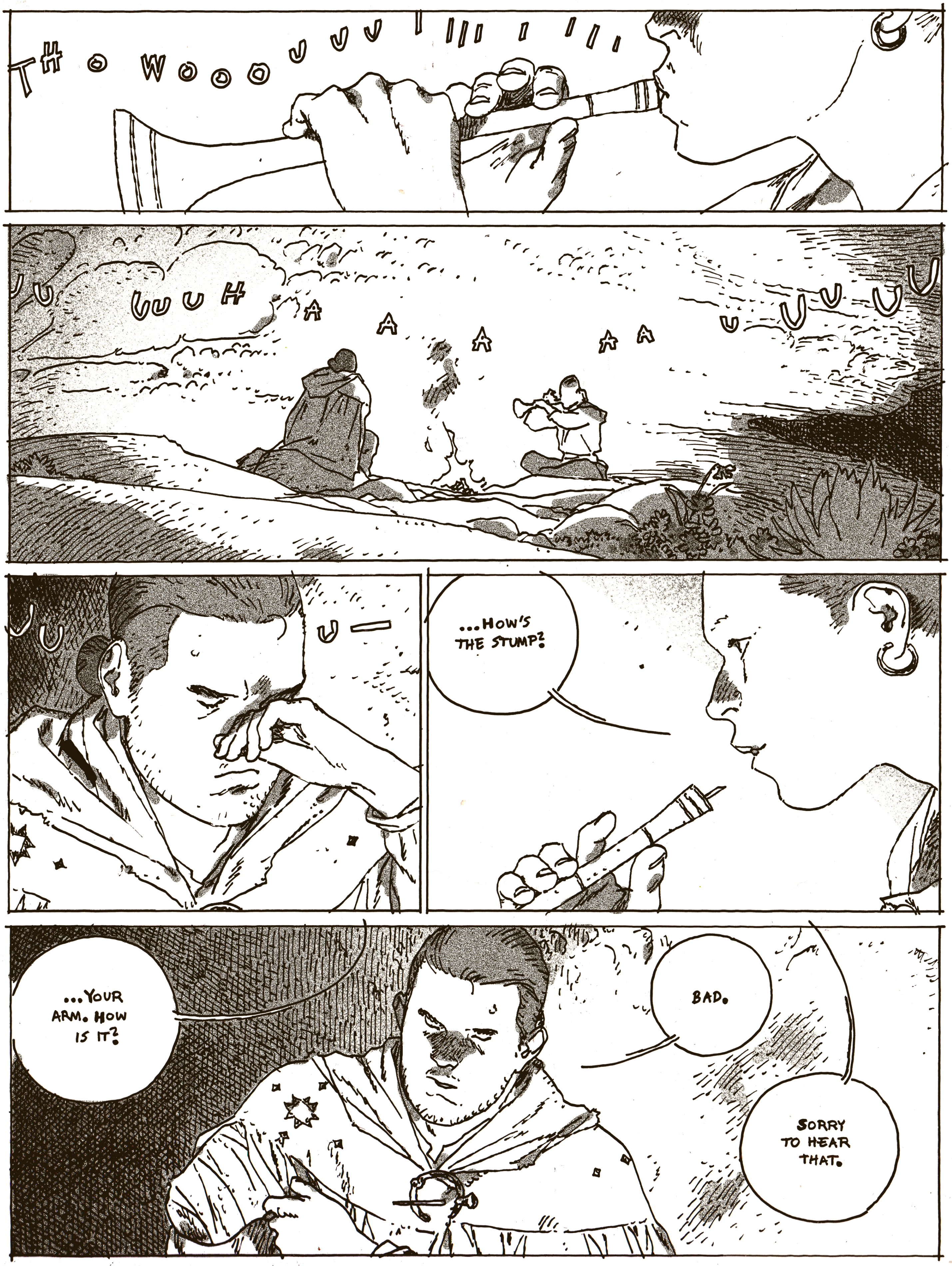

KAAA–
AH–
I...
AH...
I THINK I JUST REMEMBERED SOMETHING.
OH?

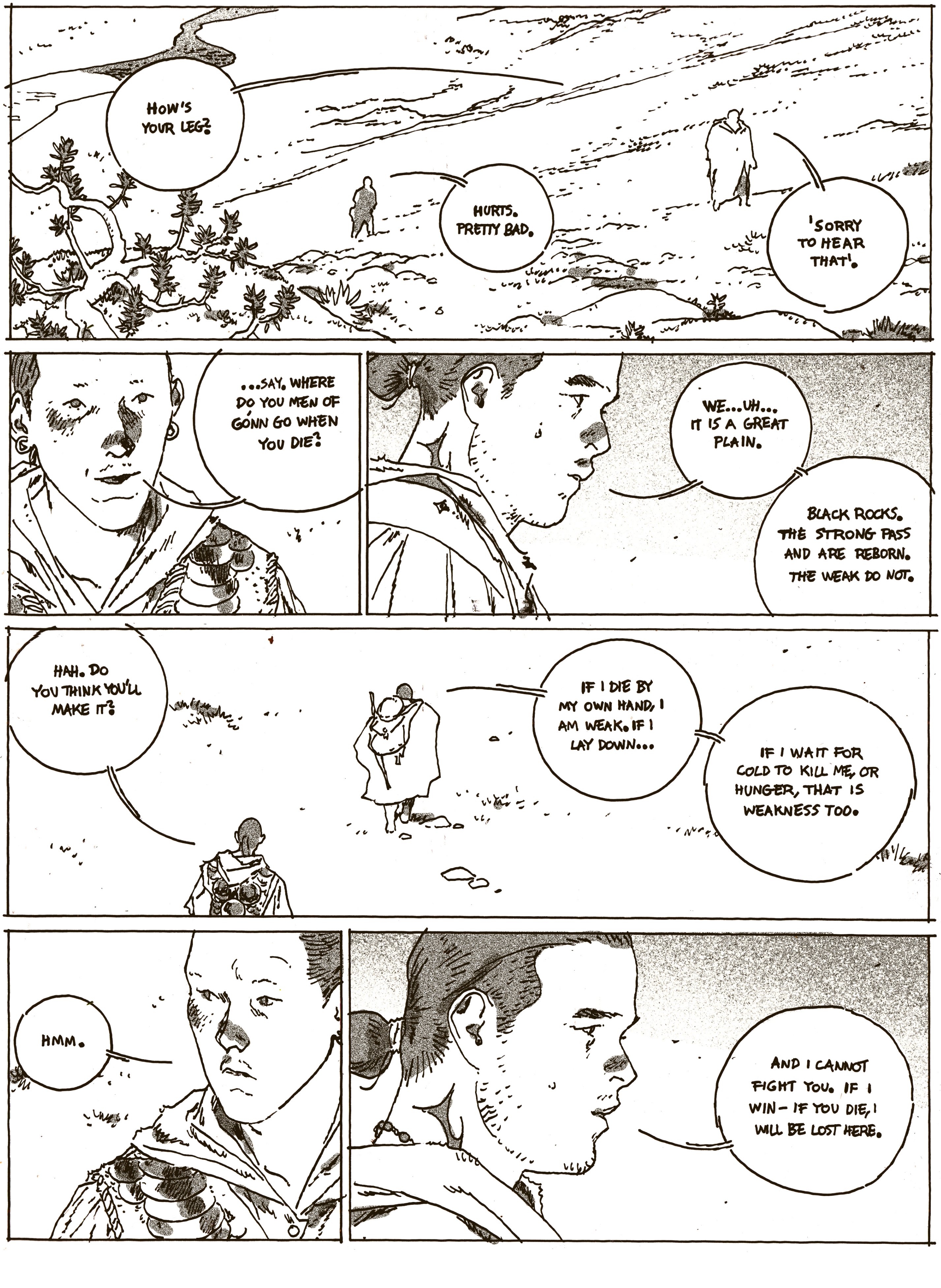

SOMETHING ABOUT A WAR...
A BATTLE. ...A LONG TIME AGO.
I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I'VE BEEN WANDERING ABOUT.
I'VE FORGOTTEN A LOT OF THINGS.
I DON'T KNOW IF YOU'RE A GOOD PERSON, OR IF, UH...
IF THIS COUNTRY YOU'VE MADE—
IF IT'S ANY GOOD.
BUT DO YOU MIND IF I STAY HERE FOR A WHILE?
YOU MEAN TO STAY?
OF COURSE—
I NEED TO REST...

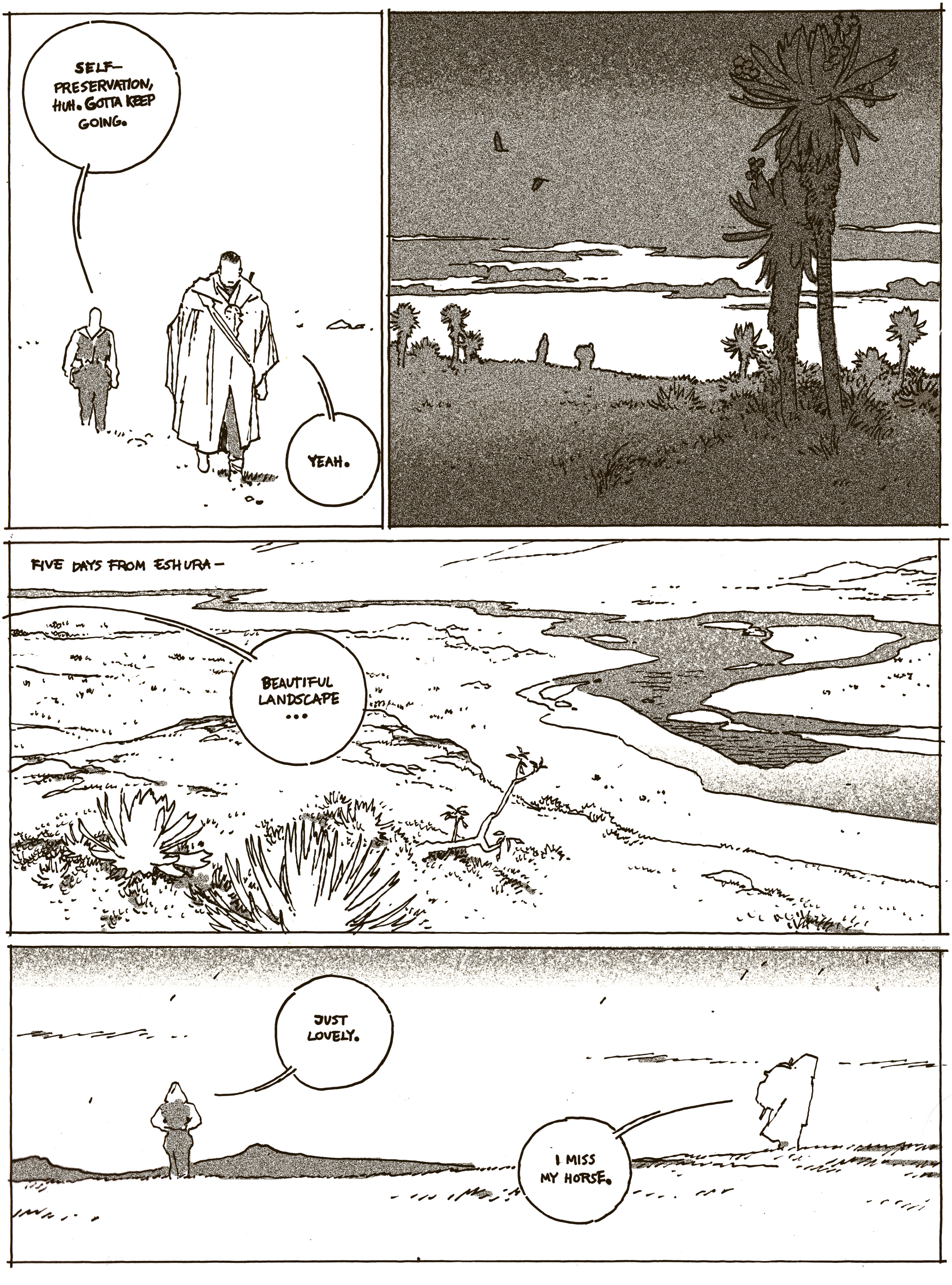

JUST FOR A LITTLE WHILE.
...YOU MAY STAY AS LONG AS YOU LIKE.
♫
'ONCE THERE WERE MOUNTAINS' ON MOUNTAINS ♪ —
'ONCE THERE WERE SUNBIRDS' —

T.B.C.

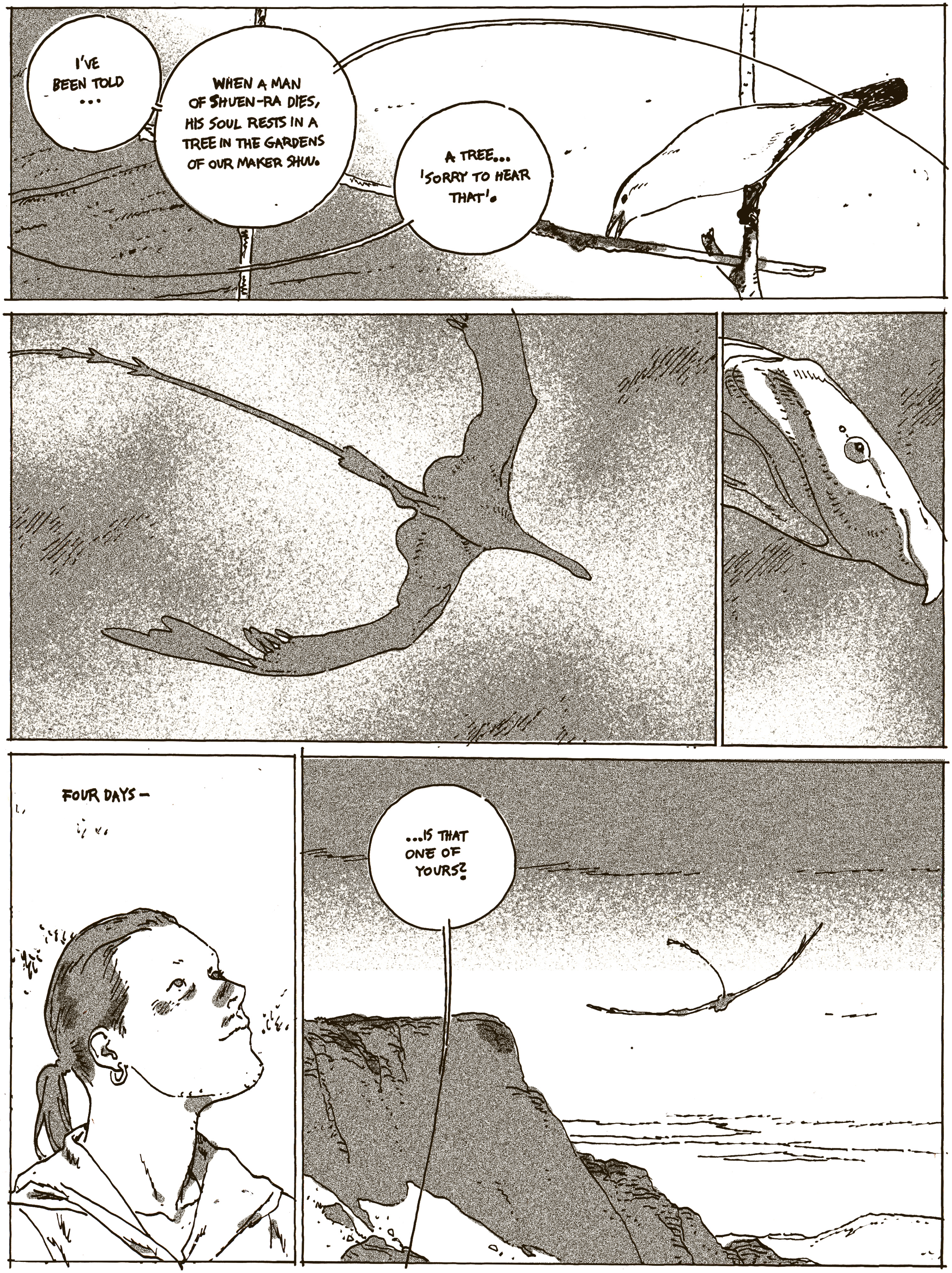
A GARDEN of SPHERES
(DEATH SCENE 01)
AN OUTPOST ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF CHUEN-RA —
THE AFTERMATH OF A BORDER SKIRMISH —
THE TWO SURVIVORS — DESERTERS —
ON THEIR WAY TO THE PEACEFUL CITY OF ESHURA —
HÚRYMM OF GÓNN, A BARBARIAN RAIDER:
TERN, A SOLDIER OF CHUEN-RA:

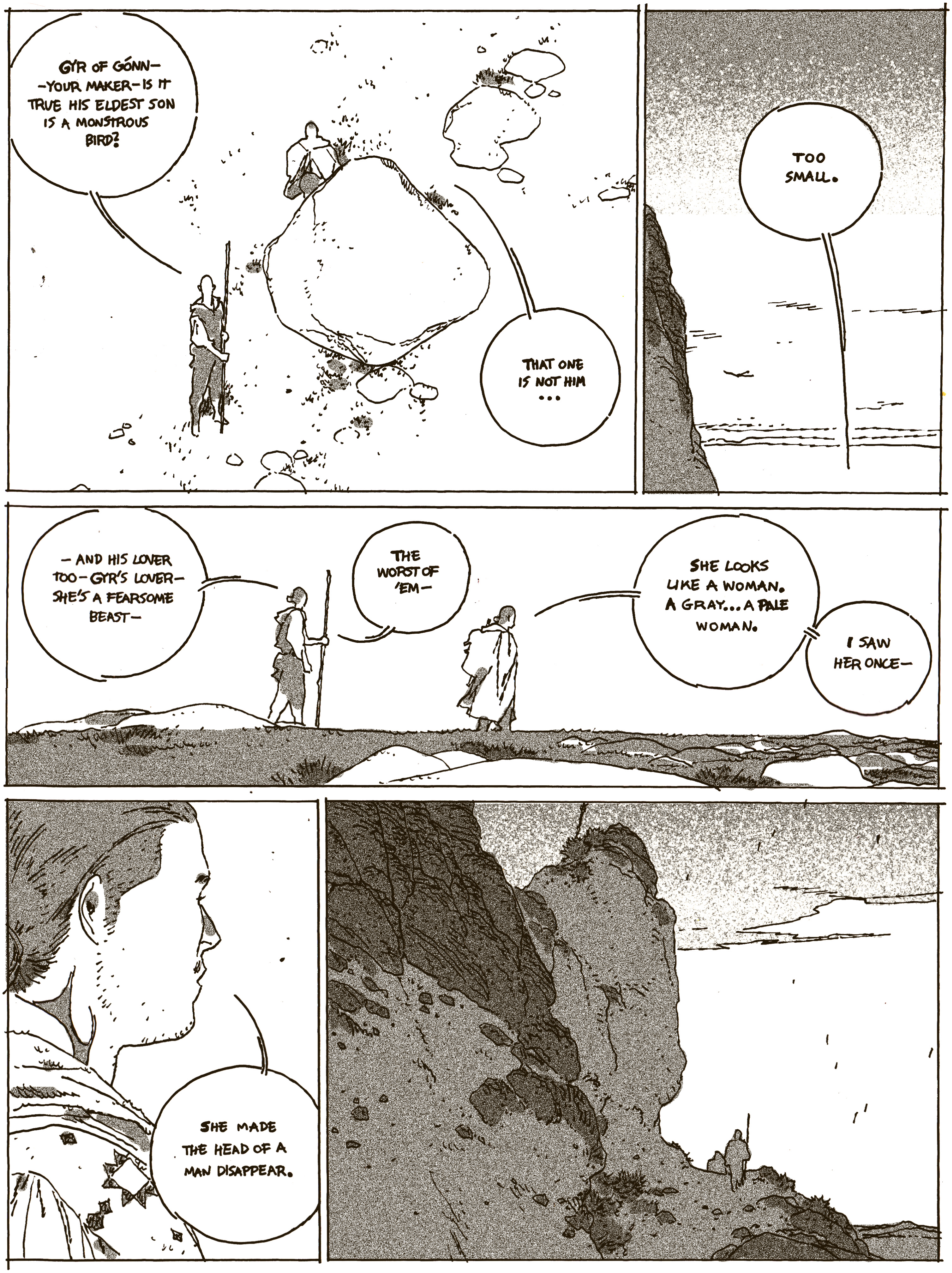

THOWOOOUUU
UUUH A A A AA UUUUU
UU U—
...HOW'S THE STUMP?
...YOUR ARM. HOW IS IT?
BAD.
SORRY TO HEAR THAT.

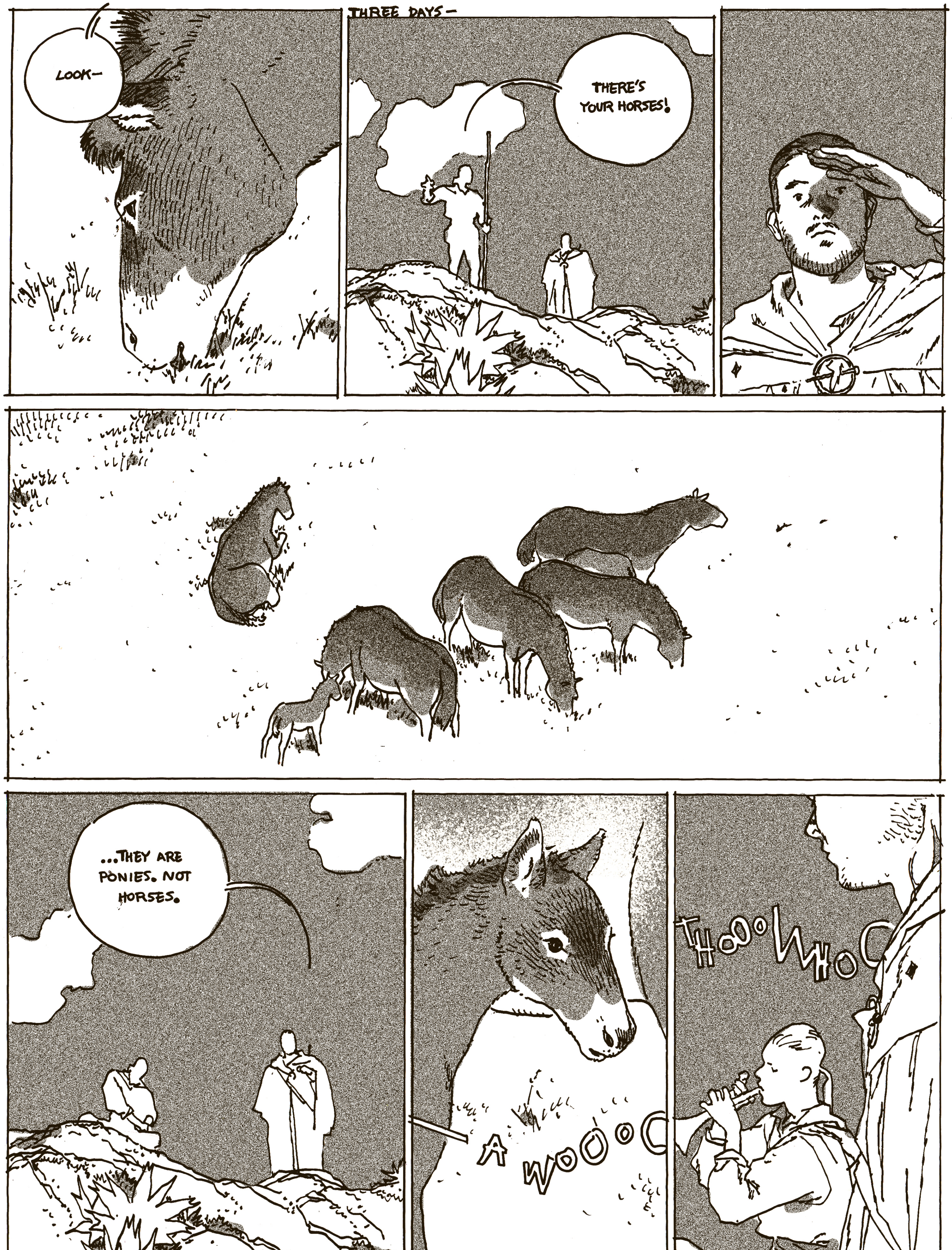

HOW'S YOUR LEG?
HURTS. PRETTY BAD.
'SORRY TO HEAR THAT'.
...SAY, WHERE DO YOU MEN OF GÓNN GO WHEN YOU DIE?
WE...UH... IT IS A GREAT PLAIN.
BLACK ROCKS. THE STRONG PASS AND ARE REBORN. THE WEAK DO NOT.
HAH. DO YOU THINK YOU'LL MAKE IT?
IF I DIE BY MY OWN HAND, I AM WEAK. IF I LAY DOWN...
IF I WAIT FOR COLD TO KILL ME, OR HUNGER, THAT IS WEAKNESS TOO.
HMM.
AND I CANNOT FIGHT YOU. IF I WIN - IF YOU DIE, I WILL BE LOST HERE.

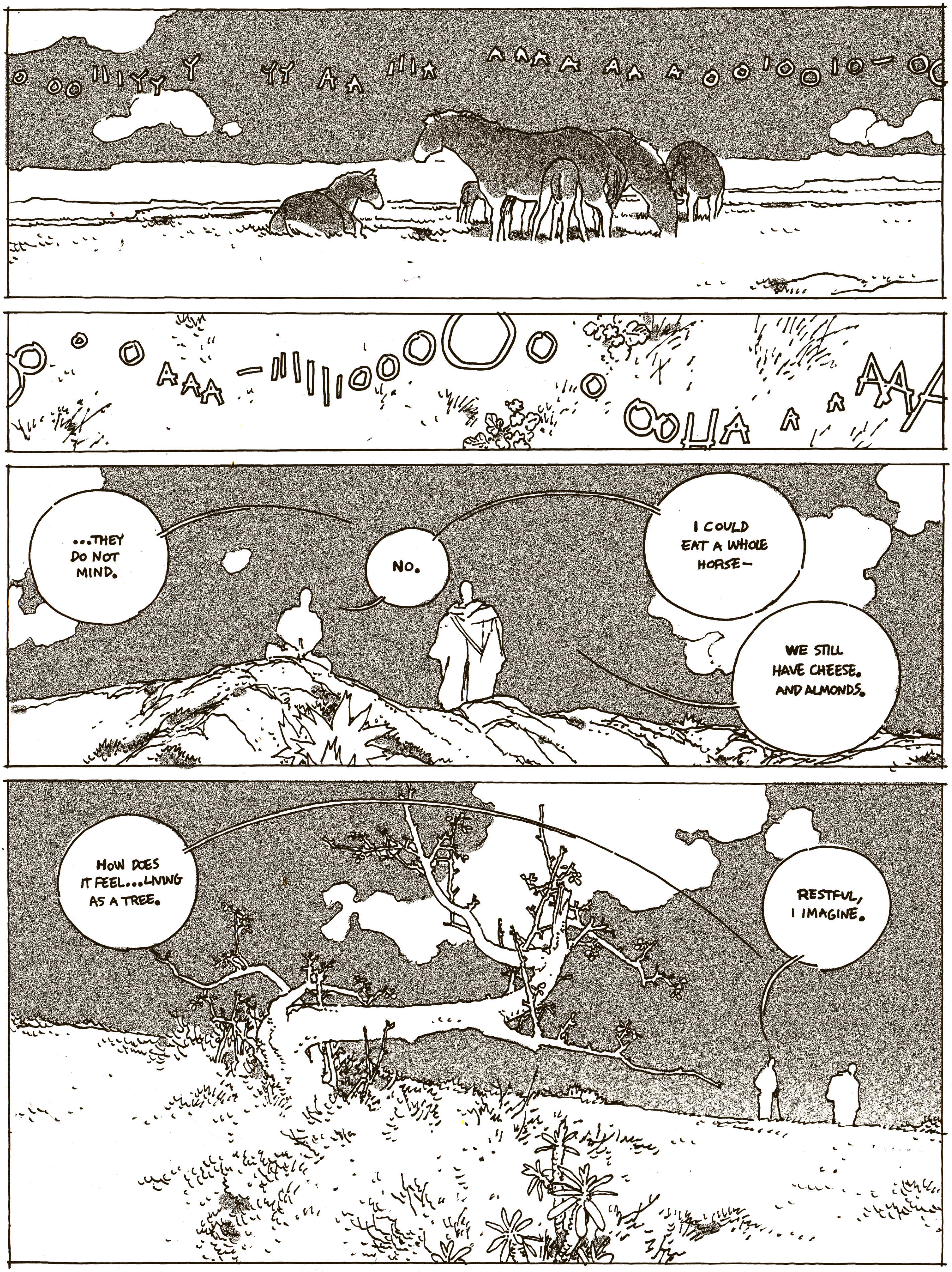

SELF-PRESERVATION, HUH. GOTTA KEEP GOING.
YEAH.
FIVE DAYS FROM ESHURA-
BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPE...
JUST LOVELY.
I MISS MY HORSE.

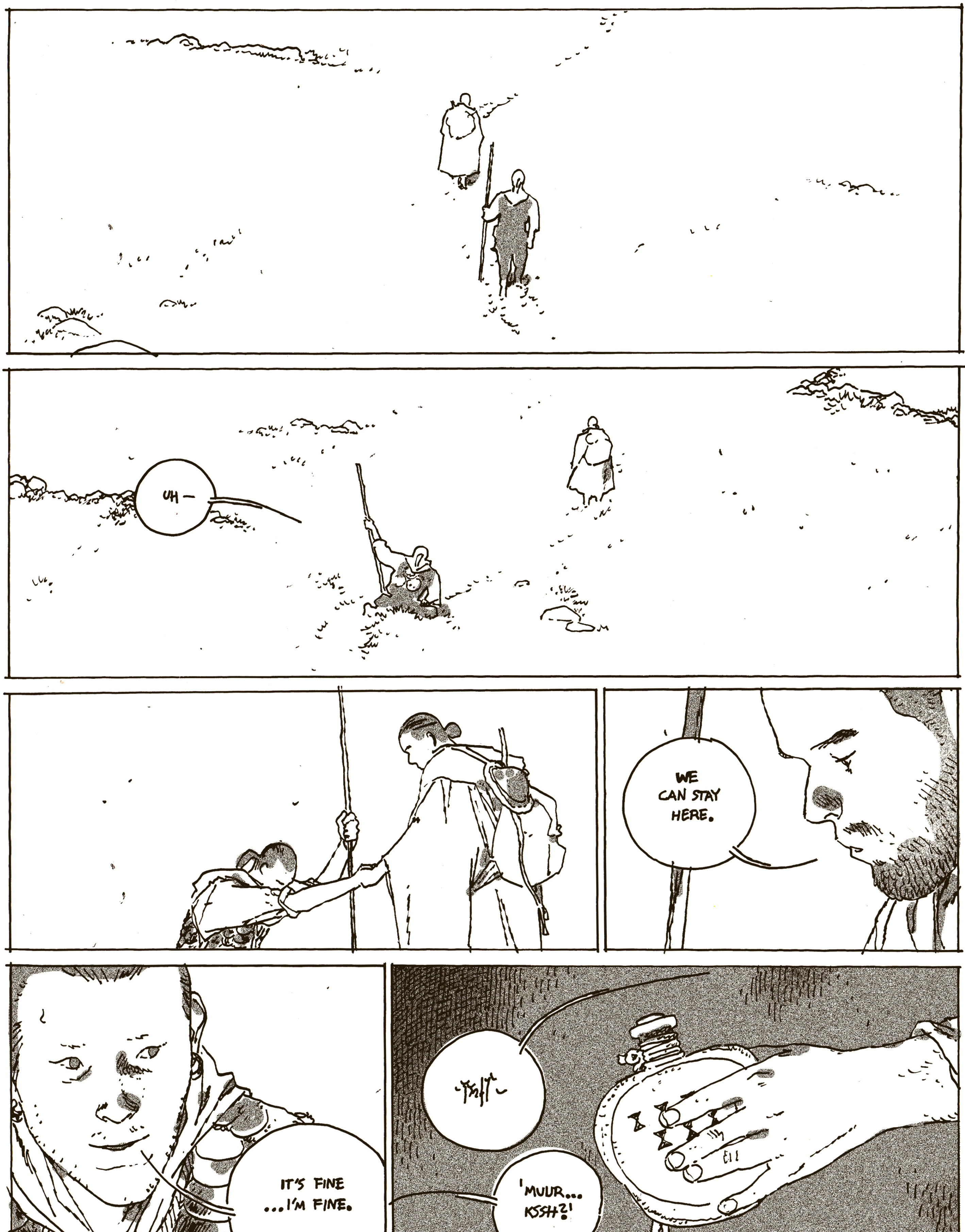
WAIT—
A LITTLE UP—
TWUP
OH.
... GOT HIM!
HOW IS YOUR LEG?
FESTERING.

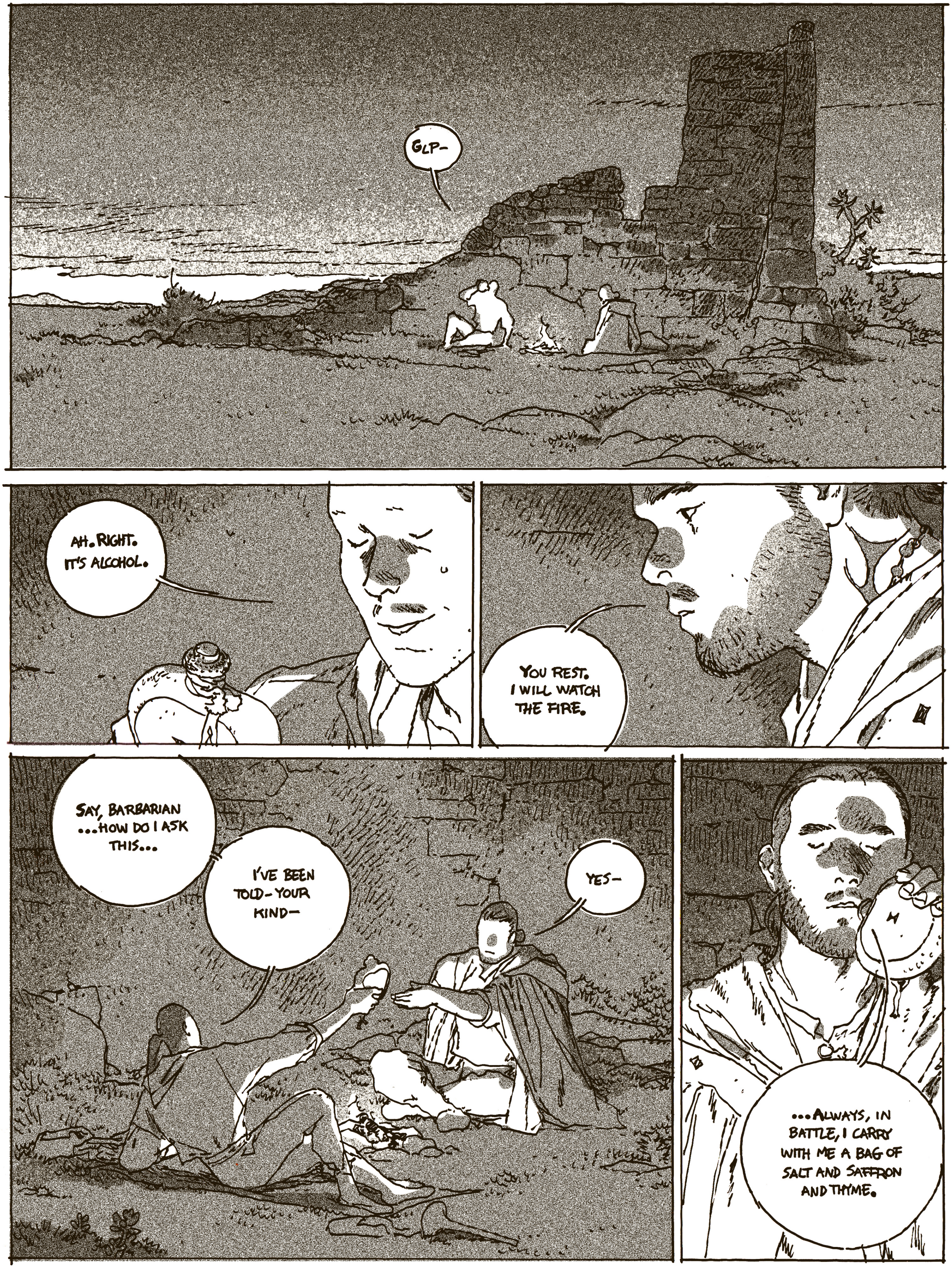

I'VE BEEN TOLD ...
WHEN A MAN OF SHUEN-RA DIES, HIS SOUL RESTS IN A TREE IN THE GARDENS OF OUR MAKER SHUU.
A TREE... 'SORRY TO HEAR THAT'.
FOUR DAYS –
...IS THAT ONE OF YOURS?

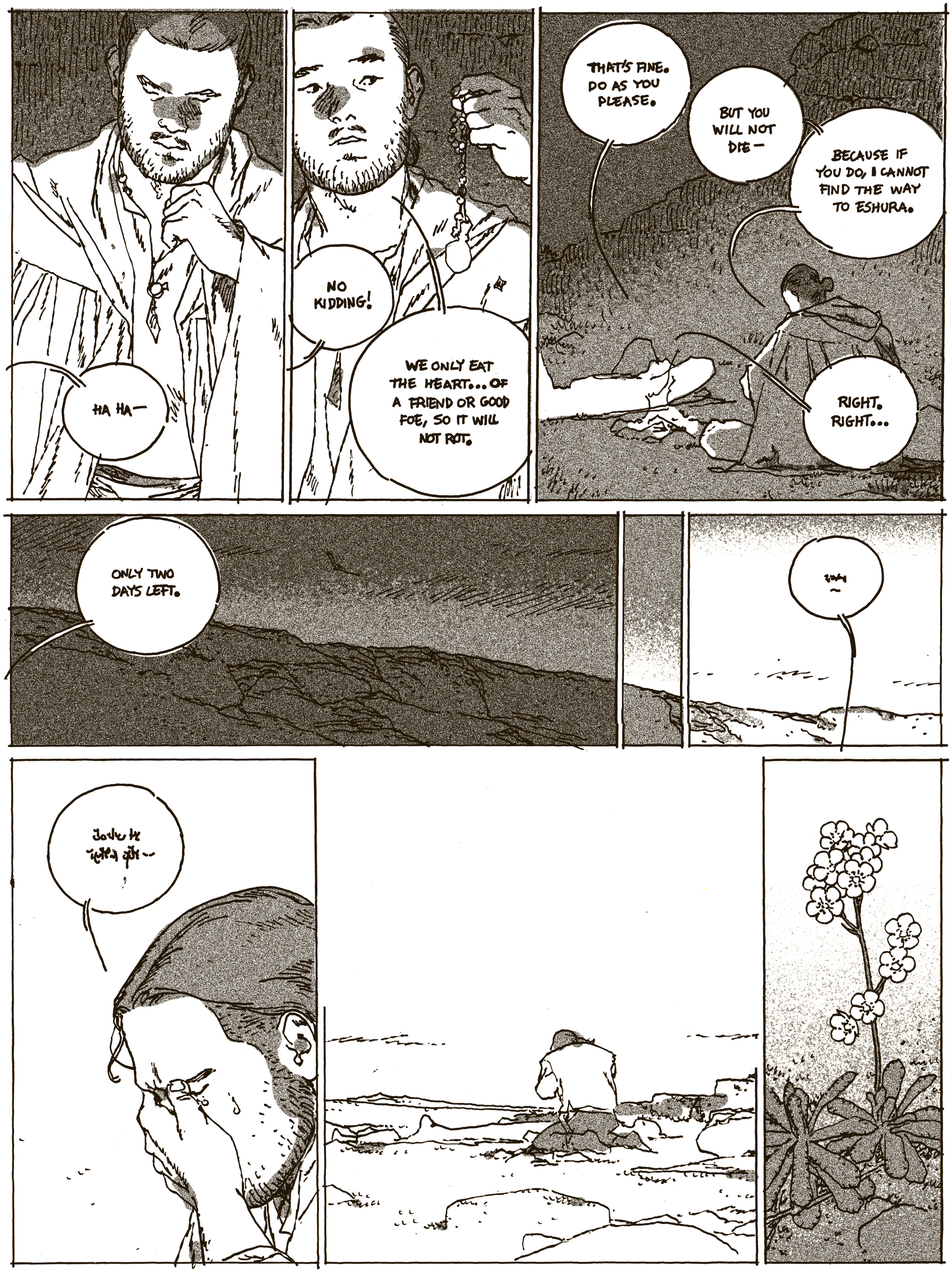

GYR OF GÓNN— —YOUR MAKER—IS IT TRUE HIS ELDEST SON IS A MONSTROUS BIRD?
THAT ONE IS NOT HIM...
TOO SMALL.
—AND HIS LOVER TOO—GYR'S LOVER—SHE'S A FEARSOME BEAST—
THE WORST OF 'EM—
SHE LOOKS LIKE A WOMAN. A GRAY... A PALE WOMAN.
I SAW HER ONCE—
SHE MADE THE HEAD OF A MAN DISAPPEAR.

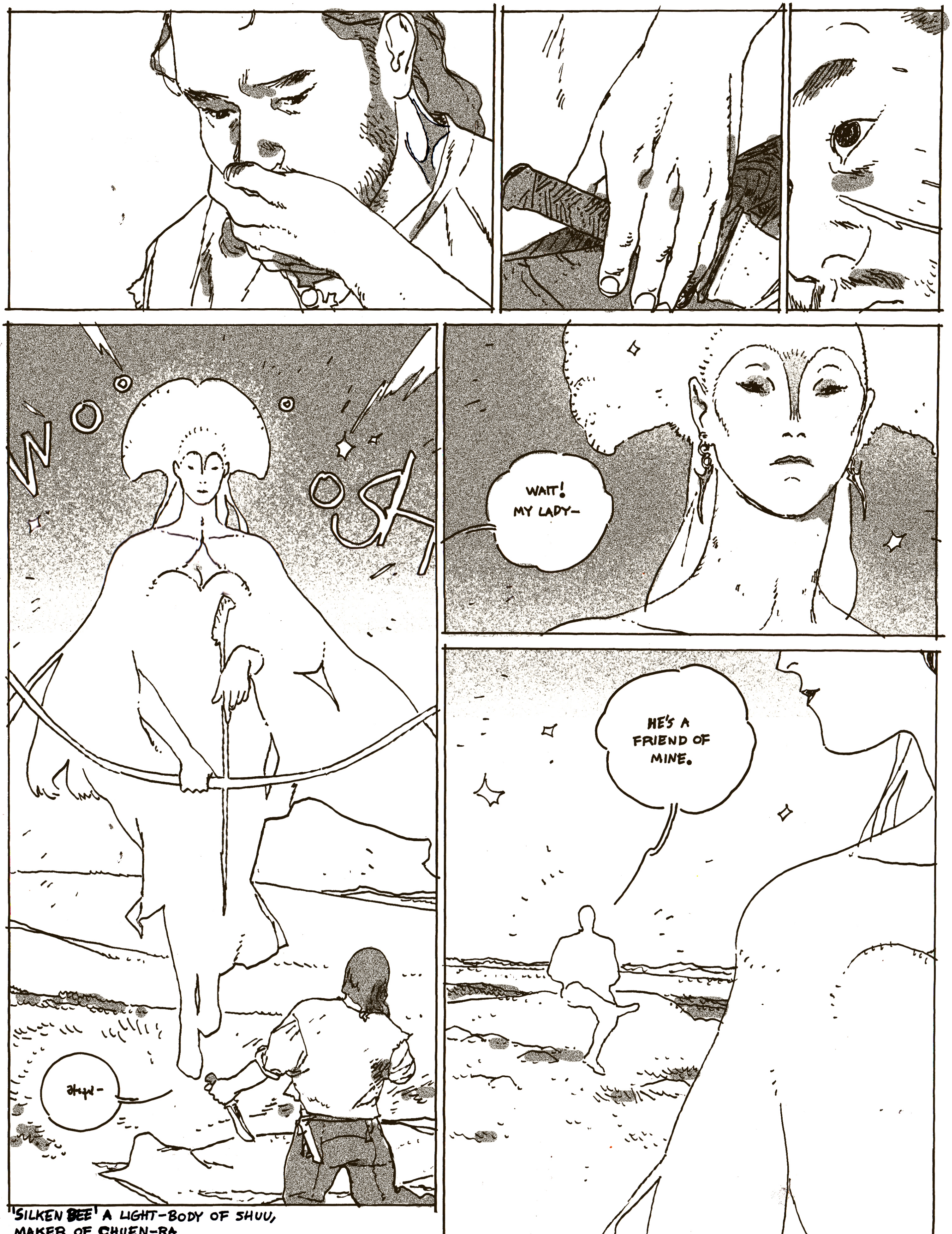

LOOK—
THREE DAYS—
THERE'S YOUR HORSES!
...THEY ARE PONIES. NOT HORSES.
A WOOOO
THOOOWHOO

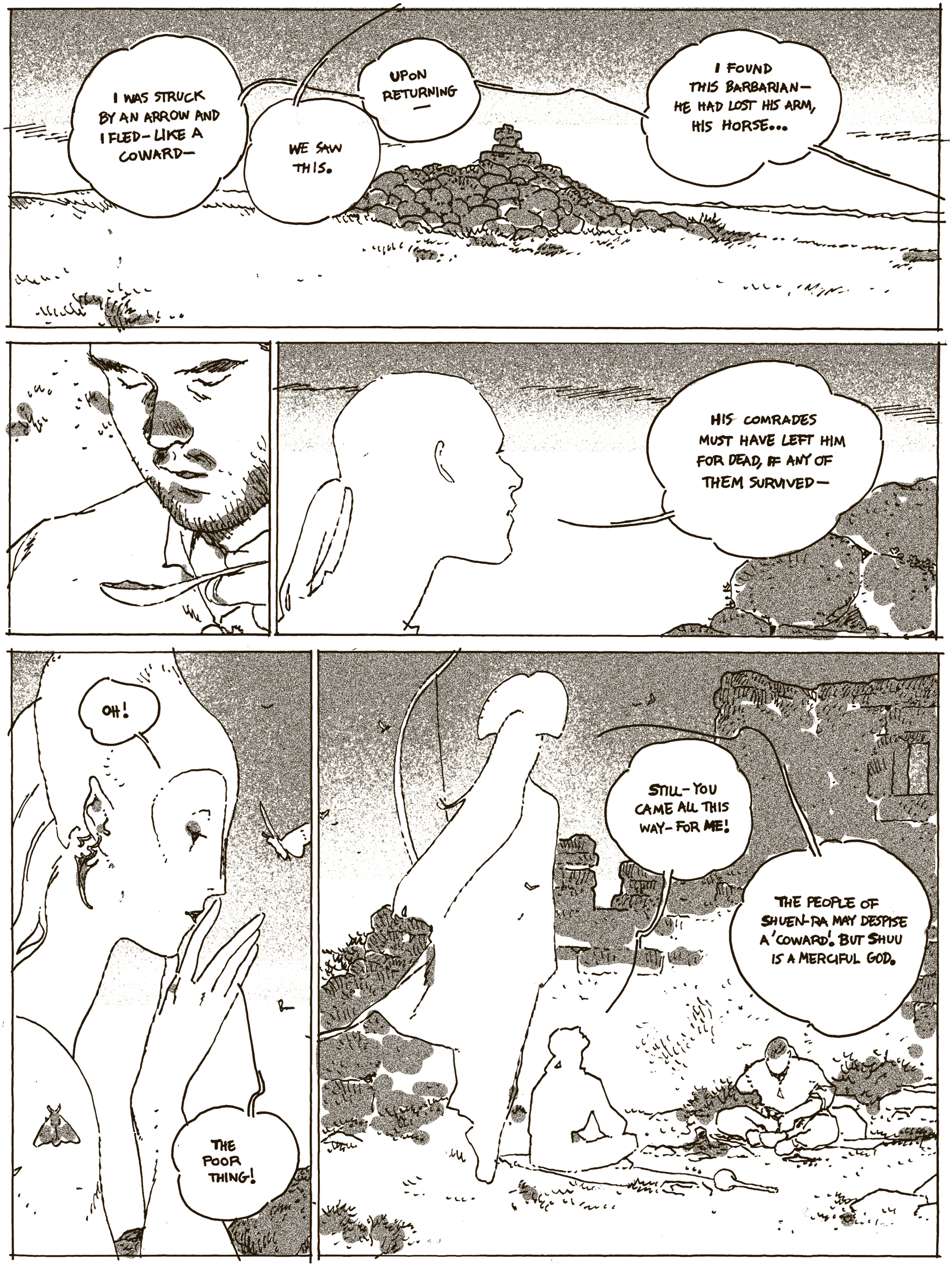

...THEY DO NOT MIND.
NO.
I COULD EAT A WHOLE HORSE–
WE STILL HAVE CHEESE. AND ALMONDS.
HOW DOES IT FEEL...LIVING AS A TREE.
RESTFUL, I IMAGINE.

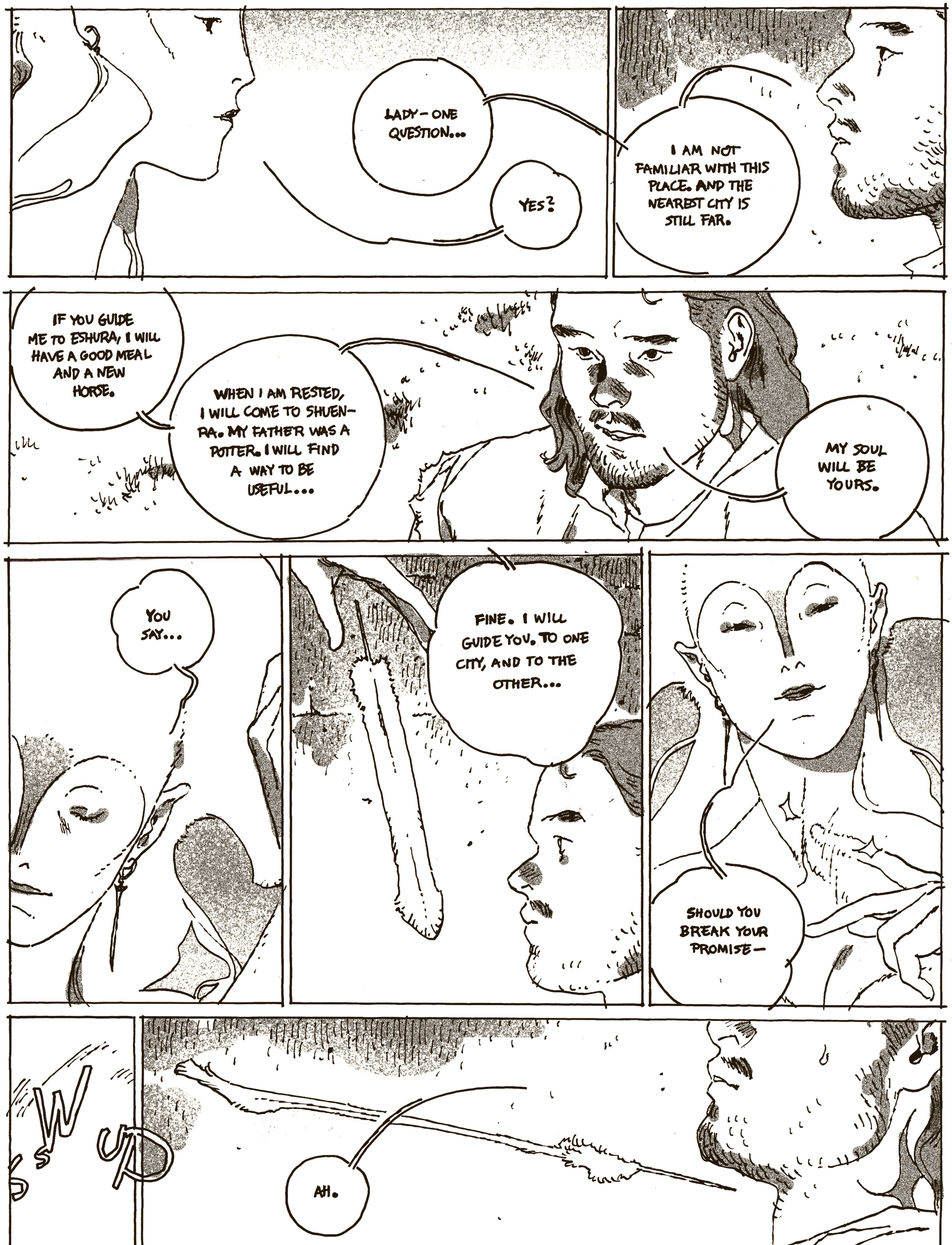

UH—
WE CAN STAY HERE.
IT'S FINE ...I'M FINE.
'MUUR... KSSH?!

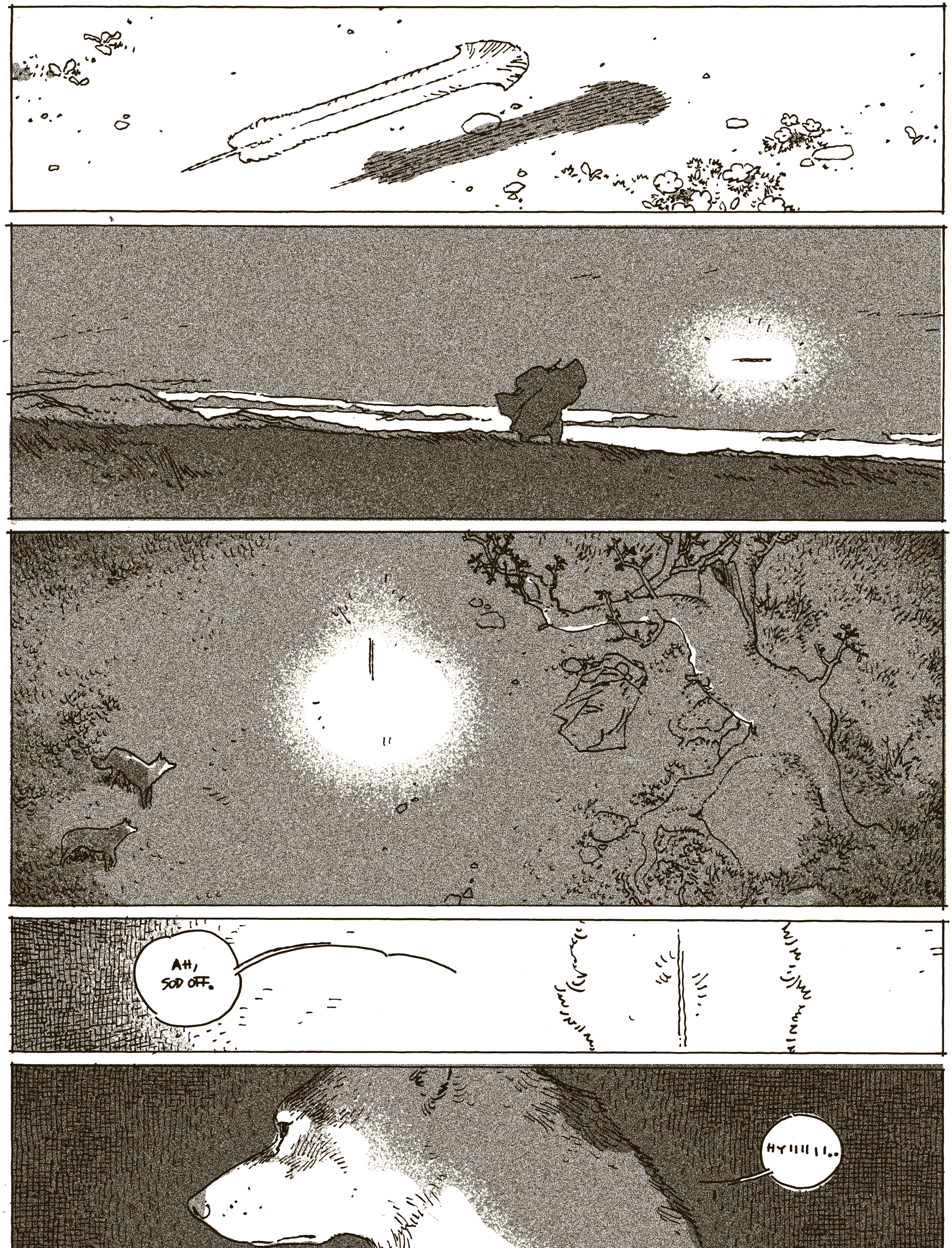

GLP-
AH. RIGHT. IT'S ALCOHOL.
YOU REST. I WILL WATCH THE FIRE.
SAY, BARBARIAN ...HOW DO I ASK THIS...
I'VE BEEN TOLD- YOUR KIND-
YES-
...ALWAYS, IN BATTLE, I CARRY WITH ME A BAG OF SALT AND SAFFRON AND THYME.

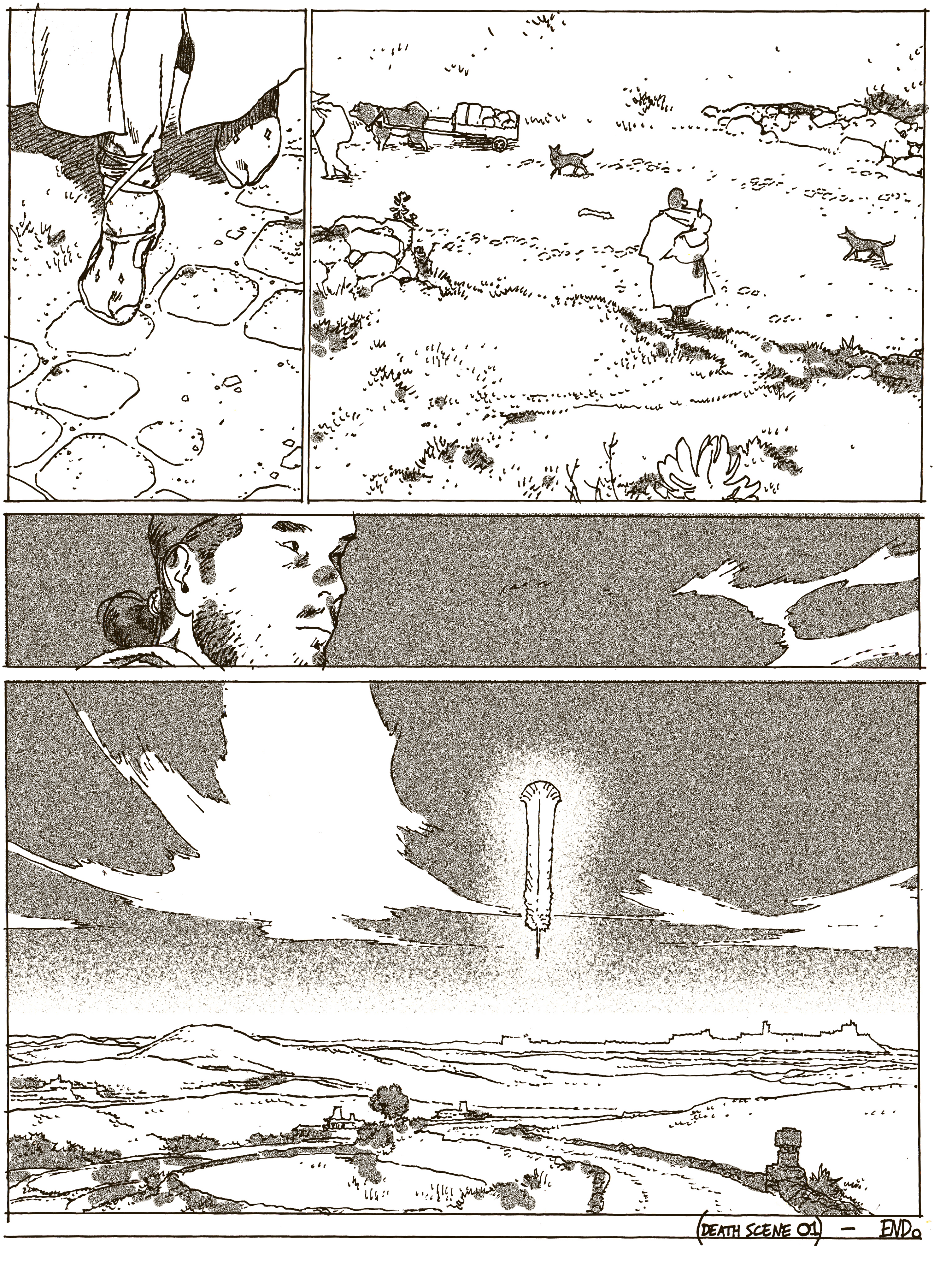

HA HA—
NO KIDDING!
WE ONLY EAT THE HEART... OF A FRIEND OR GOOD FOE, SO IT WILL NOT ROT.
THAT'S FINE. DO AS YOU PLEASE.
BUT YOU WILL NOT DIE—
BECAUSE IF YOU DO, I CANNOT FIND THE WAY TO ESHURA.
RIGHT. RIGHT...
ONLY TWO DAYS LEFT.


WOOSH
WAIT! MY LADY-
HE'S A FRIEND OF MINE.
'SILKEN BEE' A LIGHT-BODY OF SHUU, MAKER OF CHUEN-RA


I WAS STRUCK BY AN ARROW AND I FLED—LIKE A COWARD—
WE SAW THIS.
UPON RETURNING—
I FOUND THIS BARBARIAN—HE HAD LOST HIS ARM, HIS HORSE...
HIS COMRADES MUST HAVE LEFT HIM FOR DEAD, IF ANY OF THEM SURVIVED—
OH!
THE POOR THING!
STILL—YOU CAME ALL THIS WAY—FOR ME!
THE PEOPLE OF SHUEN-RA MAY DESPISE A 'COWARD'. BUT SHUU IS A MERCIFUL GOD.


LADY— ONE QUESTION...
YES?
I AM NOT FAMILIAR WITH THIS PLACE. AND THE NEAREST CITY IS STILL FAR.
IF YOU GUIDE ME TO ESHURA, I WILL HAVE A GOOD MEAL AND A NEW HORSE.
WHEN I AM RESTED, I WILL COME TO SHUEN-RA. MY FATHER WAS A POTTER. I WILL FIND A WAY TO BE USEFUL...
MY SOUL WILL BE YOURS.
YOU SAY...
FINE. I WILL GUIDE YOU. TO ONE CITY, AND TO THE OTHER...
SHOULD YOU BREAK YOUR PROMISE—
SWUP
AH.

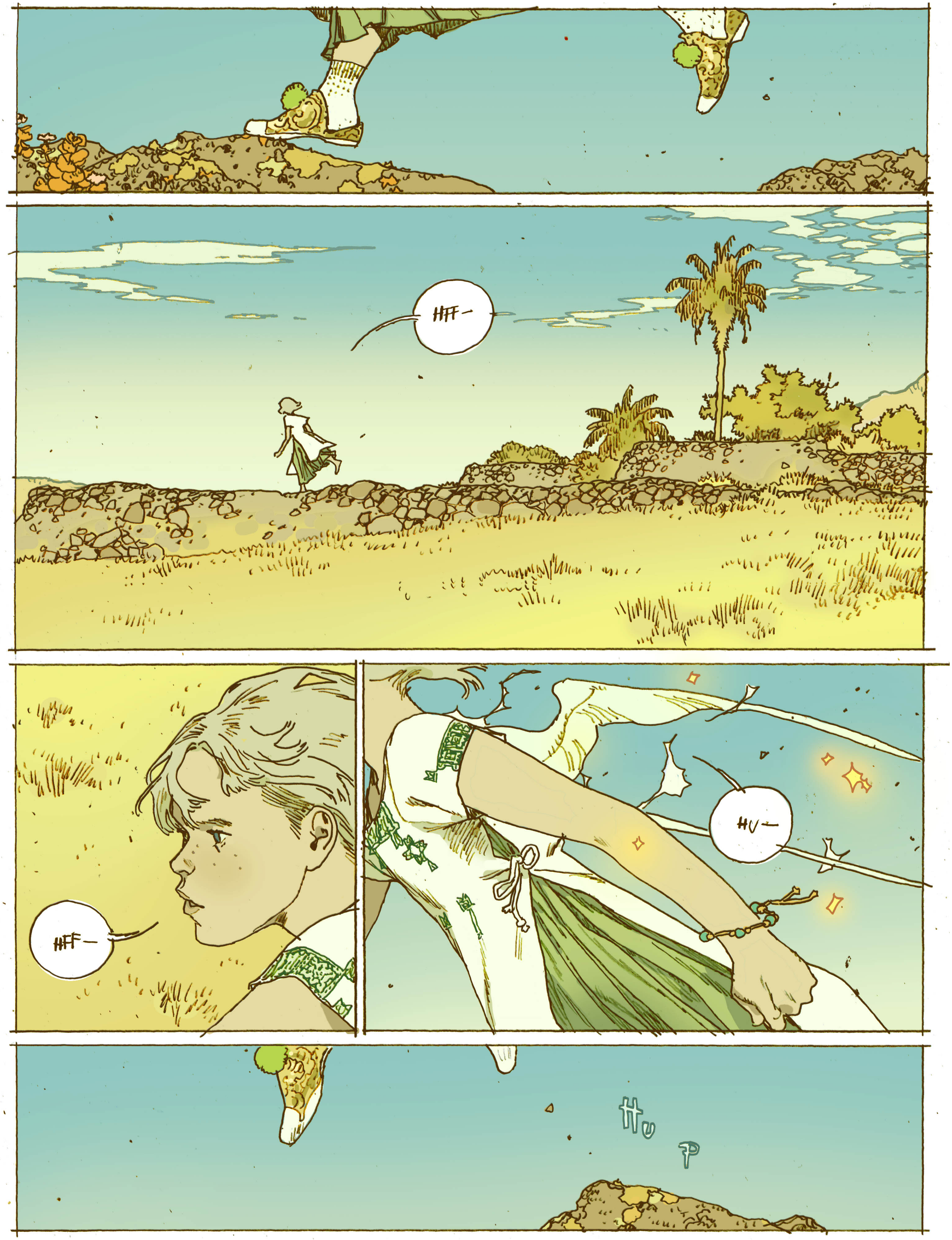

AH, SOD OFF.
HYIIIII..

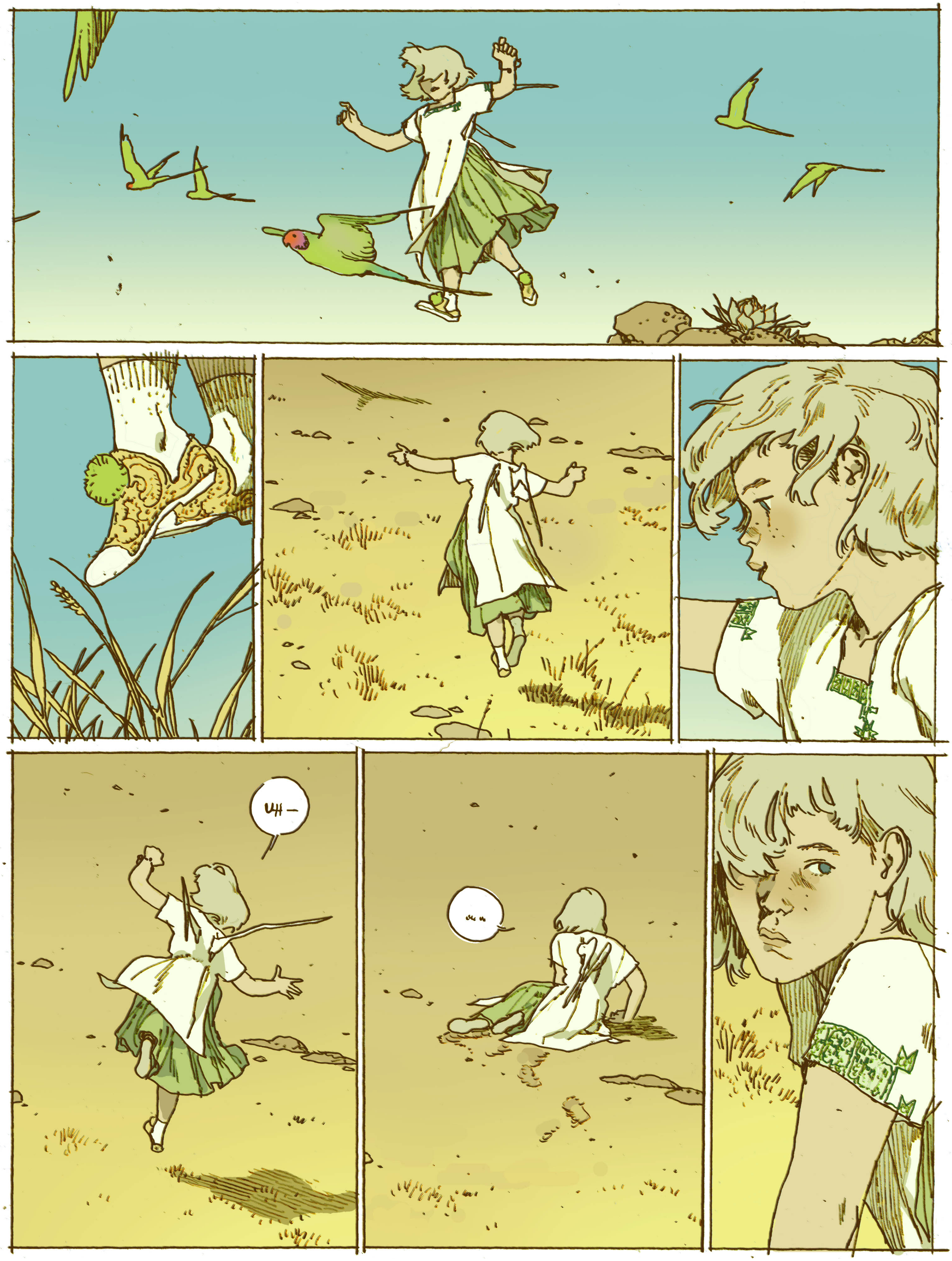


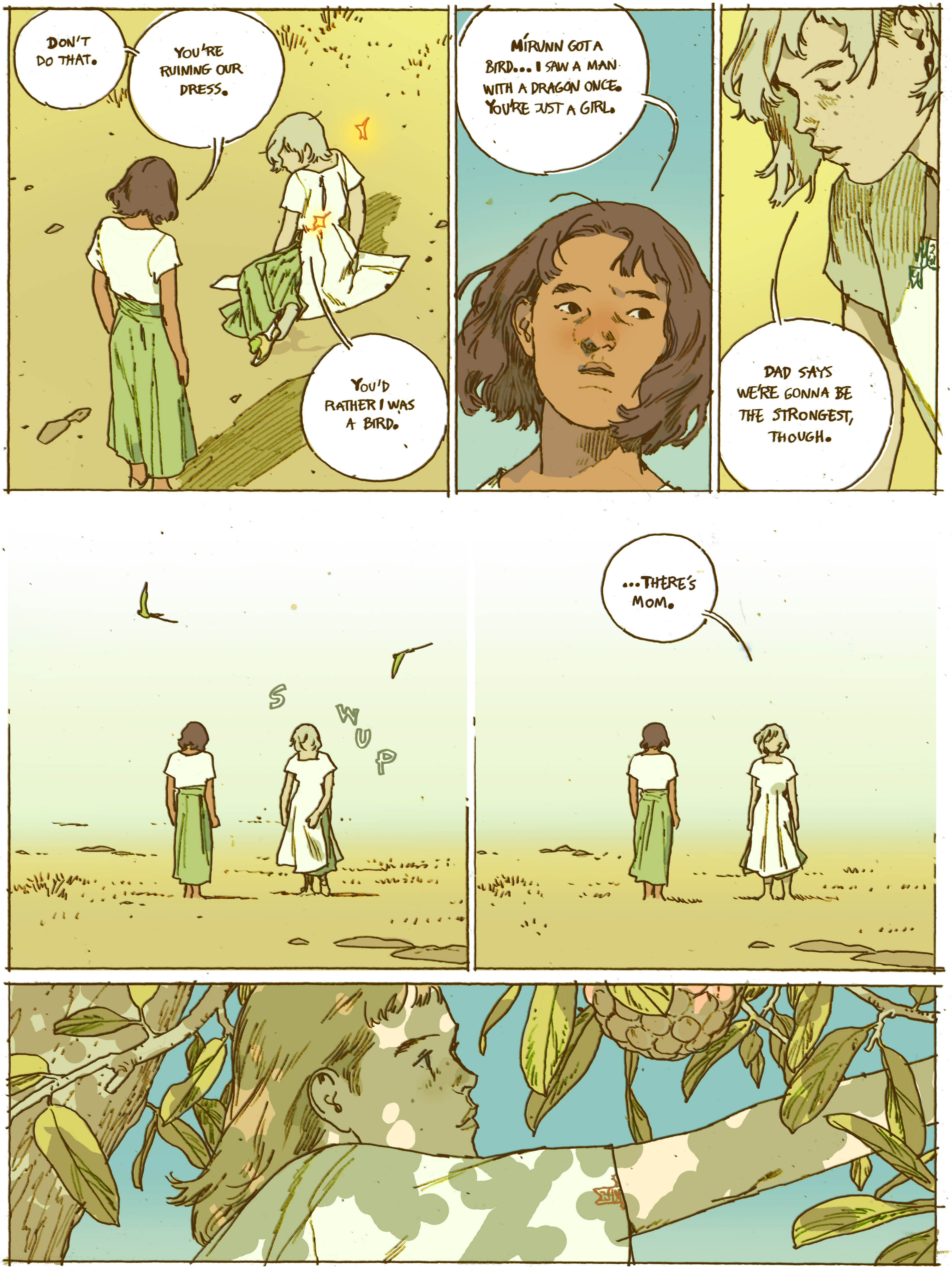
(DEATH SCENE 01) – END.

A GARDEN OF SPHERES.

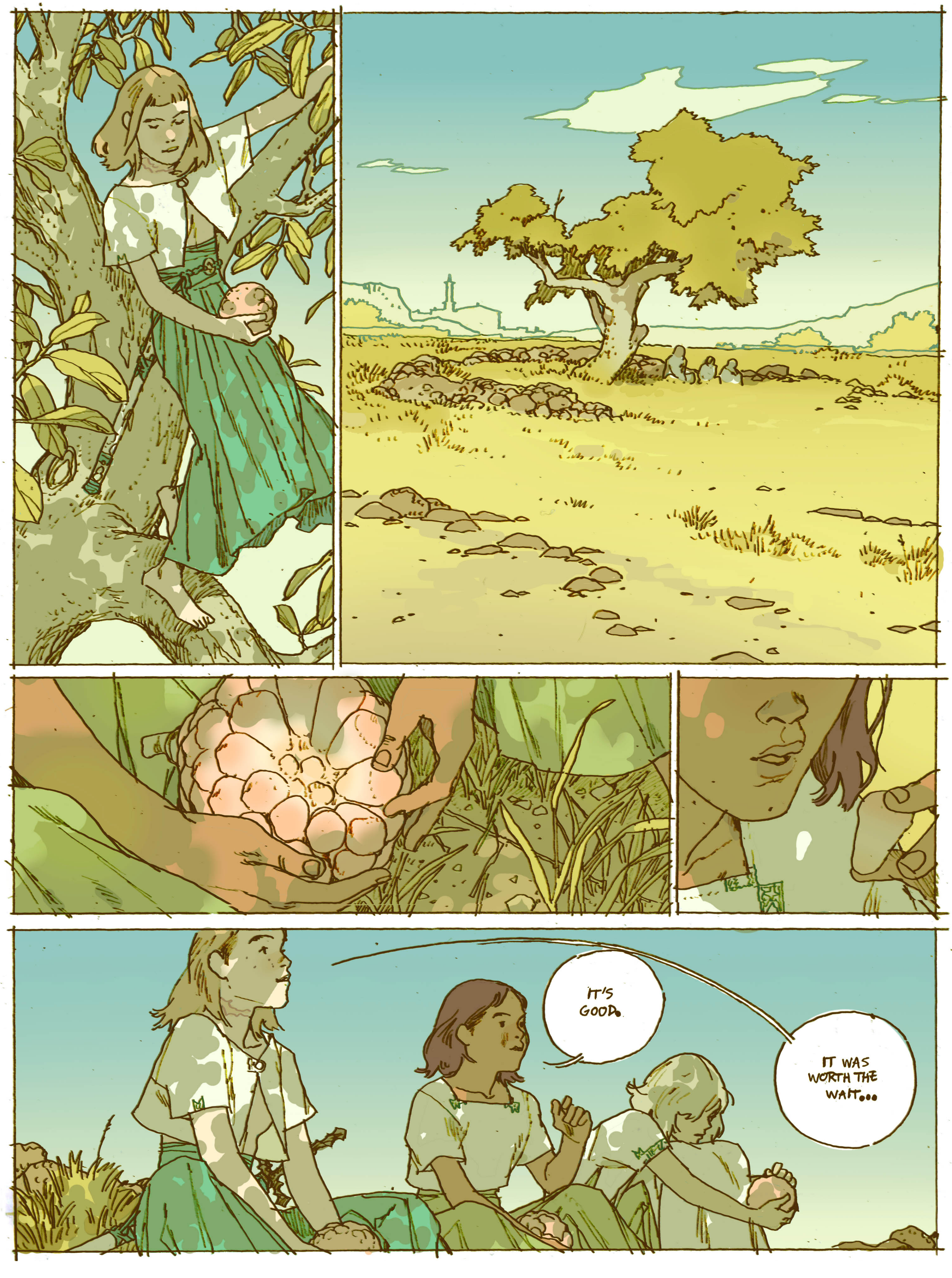
12 YEARS LATER (LOCAL TIME)

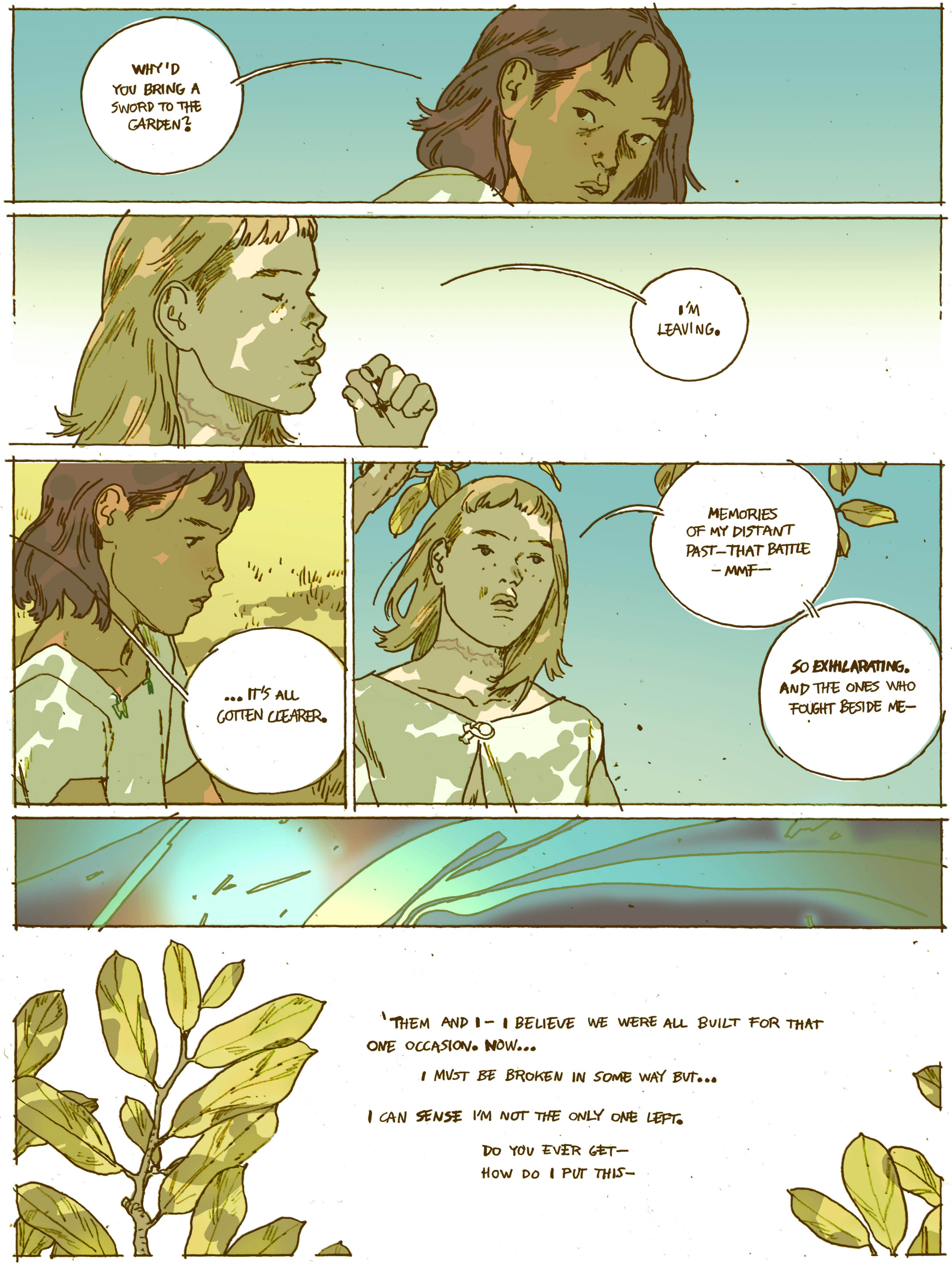

HFF–
HFF–
HU–
HUP

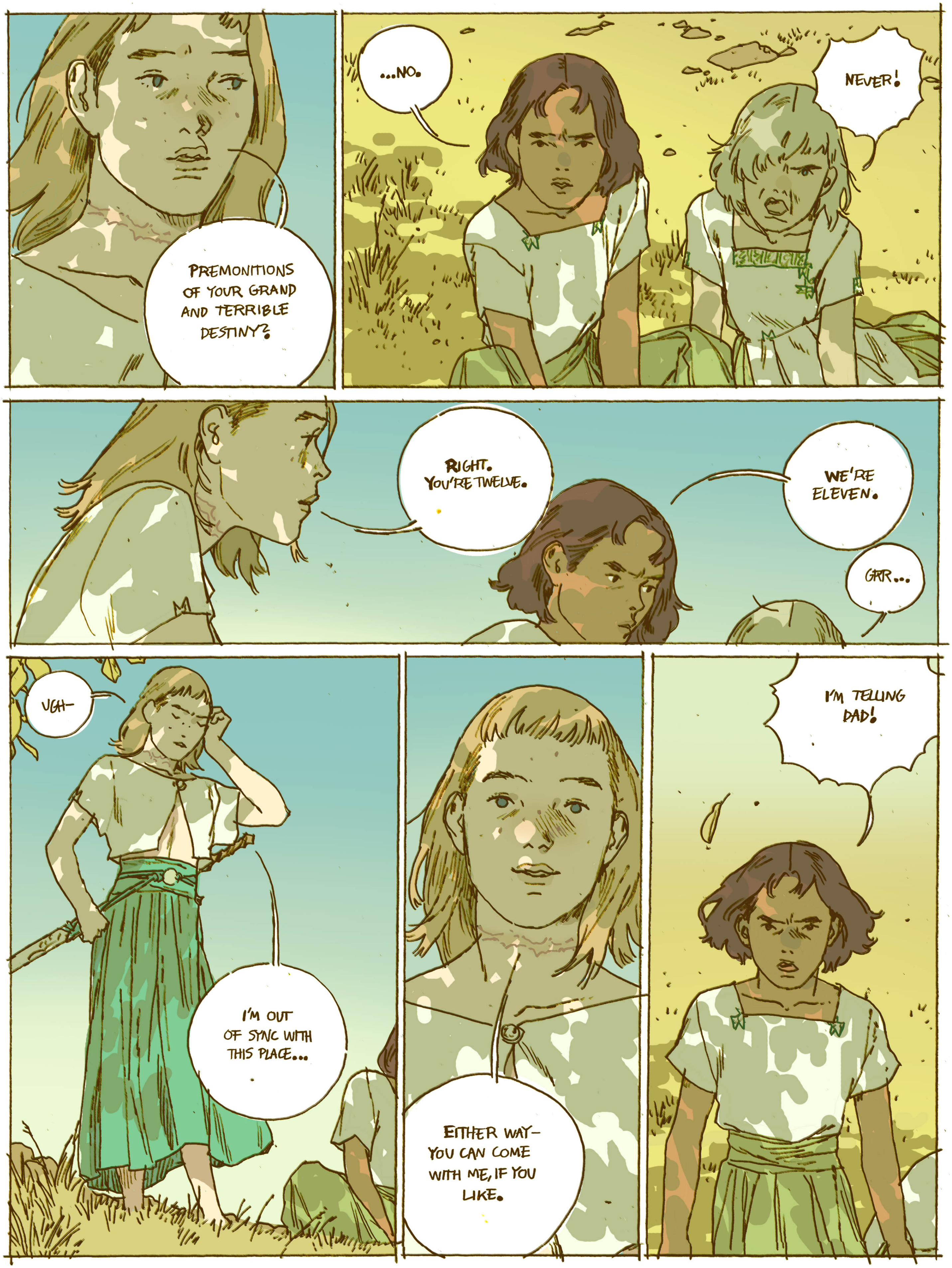

UH—

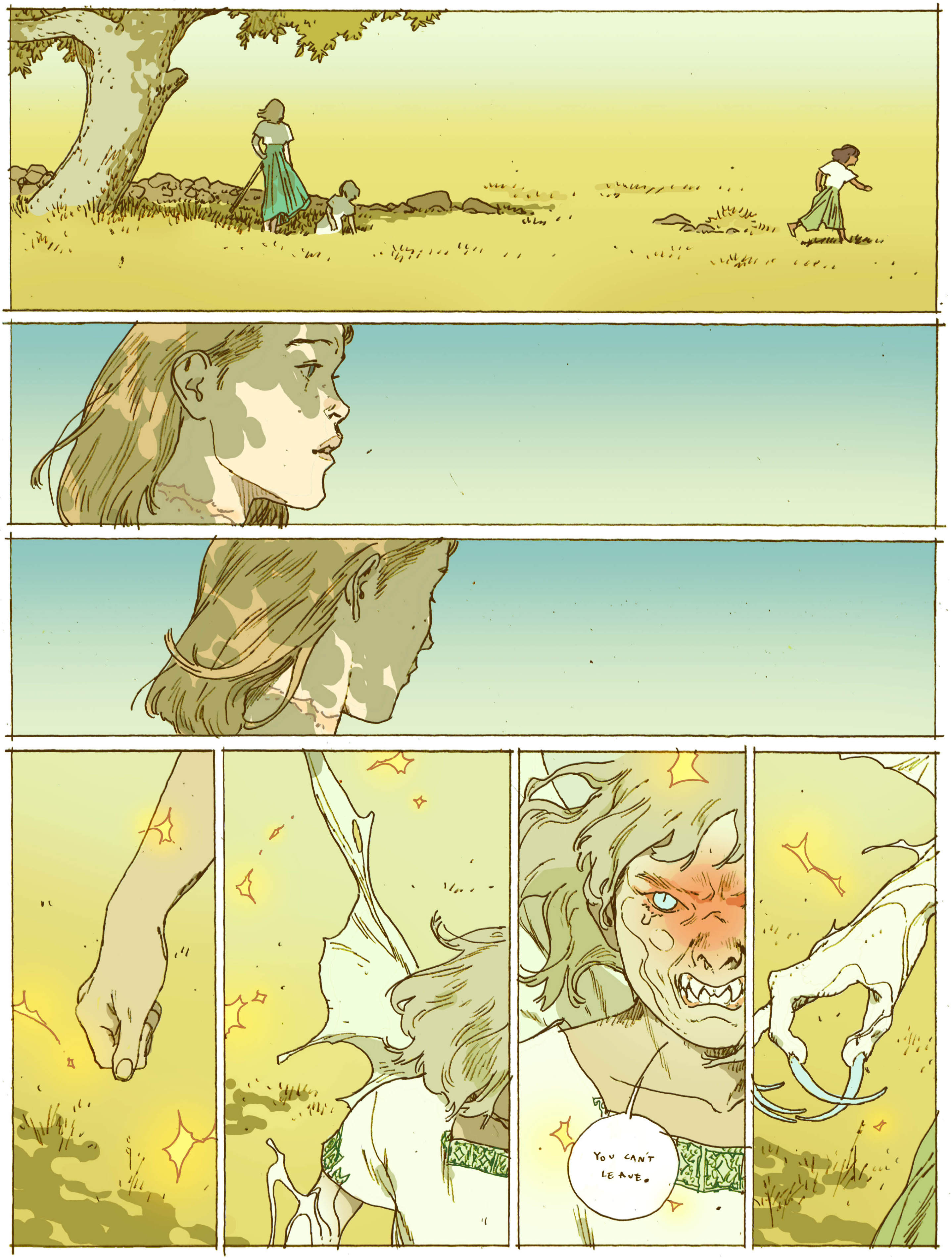


DON'T DO THAT.
YOU'RE RUINING OUR DRESS.
YOU'D RATHER I WAS A BIRD.
MÍRUNN GOT A BIRD... I SAW A MAN WITH A DRAGON ONCE. YOU'RE JUST A GIRL.
DAD SAYS WE'RE GONNA BE THE STRONGEST, THOUGH.
SWUP
...THERE'S MOM.

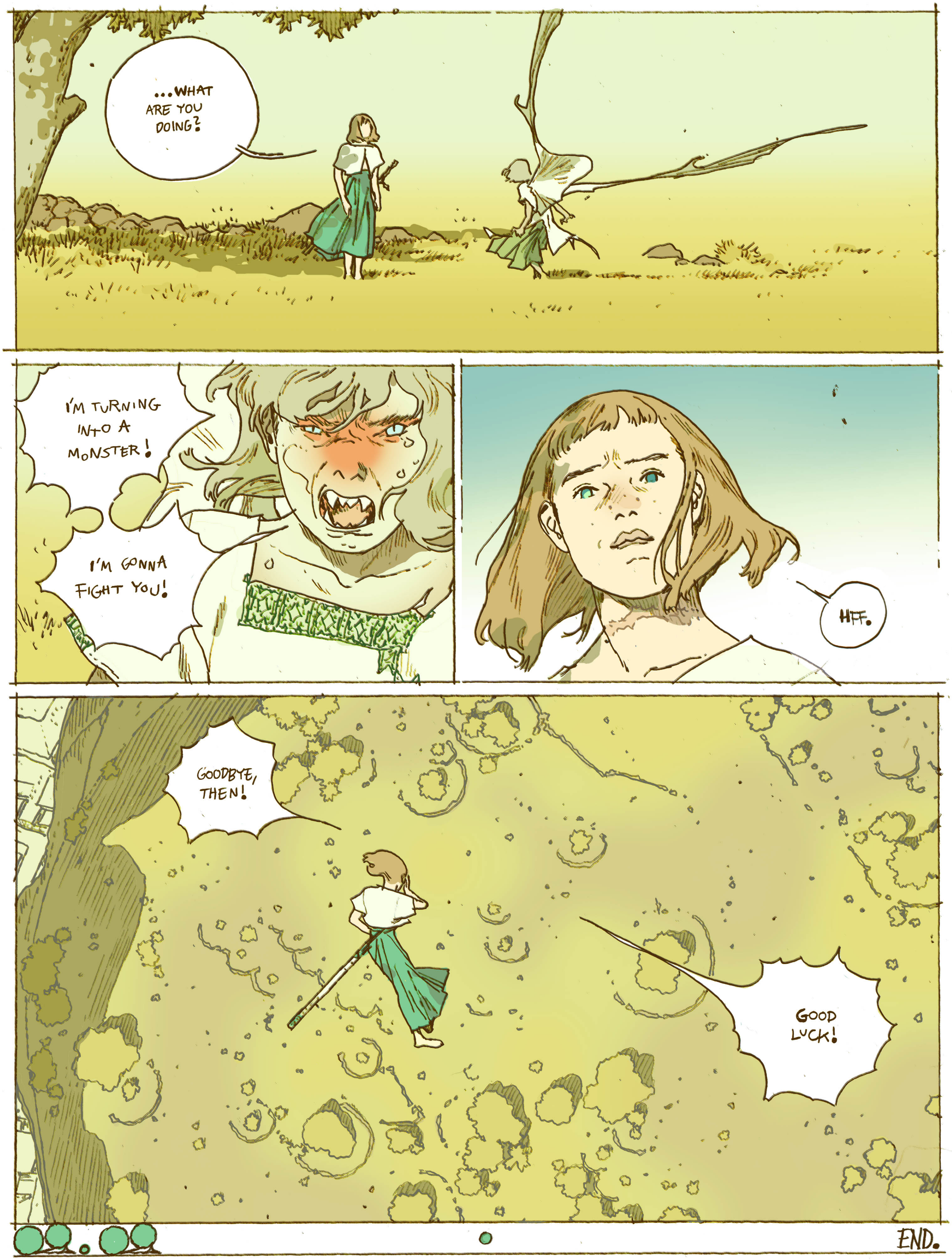

IT'S GOOD.
IT WAS WORTH THE WAIT...


WHY'D YOU BRING A SWORD TO THE GARDEN?
I'M LEAVING.
...IT'S ALL GOTTEN CLEARER.
MEMORIES OF MY DISTANT PAST—THAT BATTLE —MMF—
SO EXHILARATING. AND THE ONES WHO FOUGHT BESIDE ME—
'THEM AND I— I BELIEVE WE WERE ALL BUILT FOR THAT ONE OCCASION. NOW...
I MUST BE BROKEN IN SOME WAY BUT...
I CAN SENSE I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE LEFT.
DO YOU EVER GET—
HOW DO I PUT THIS—


PREMONITIONS OF YOUR GRAND AND TERRIBLE DESTINY?
...NO.
NEVER!
RIGHT. YOU'RE TWELVE.
WE'RE ELEVEN.
GRR...
UGH-
I'M OUT OF SYNC WITH THIS PLACE...
EITHER WAY- YOU CAN COME WITH ME, IF YOU LIKE.
I'M TELLING DAD!



YOU CAN'T LEAVE.


...WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I'M TURNING INTO A MONSTER!
I'M GONNA FIGHT YOU!
HFF.
GOODBYE, THEN!
GOOD LUCK!
END.